Strategic Vision

2018 – 2023

Five-Year Strategic Vision of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

December 7, 2018
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1. Mission Statement

Effective enforcement and compliance with environmental laws is of critical importance to protect public health and the environment, manage natural resources sustainably, achieve global environmental objectives, and provide a level playing field for regulated entities and international partners striving to achieve common goals. Environmental compliance and enforcement builds the foundation for the rule of law, effective governance, and concrete environmental progress.

The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) provides a platform bringing practitioners, networks and other stakeholders together to build on existing best practices, enable the sharing of expertise, and build capacity within our membership. The network will support the delivery of effective enforcement and compliance with environmental laws through capacity building, peer review, exchanges of practical information, and promotion of solutions to common challenges.

2. Who We Are

INECE is a member-led partnership among governmental and non-governmental compliance and enforcement practitioners from around the globe. INECE aims to improve compliance and enforcement with environmental laws and to build capacity to address compliance and enforcement at all levels of governance. INECE’s program of work is established by the INECE Secretariat in consultation with the INECE Global Council, led by the Council’s Executive Committee. The program of work is also informed by a number of standing and ad hoc committees, including the INECE Academic Committee. INECE also benefits from the views of its Private Sector Consultative Council, with whom INECE partners to identify circumstances where uneven enforcement is contributing to an un-level playing field for regulated entities and where supply chain management regimes can assist in promoting environmental accountability.

3. Background

INECE was founded in 1989, and is the only global organization focused exclusively on achieving greater compliance with environmental laws through effective compliance promotion and enforcement at all levels of governance and with all available tools.

The network was created following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 1985 between the United States’ Environmental Protection Agency and the Netherlands’ Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment. This MOU identified the need for greater collaboration between compliance and enforcement actors at an international level. The inaugural International Enforcement Workshop was held in Utrecht, Netherlands in 1990.

The network incorporates practitioners at the local, national, regional, and global level from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector with the aim of improving environmental compliance and enforcement. As a platform for practitioners from different disciplines, members of the network include environmental regulators, program managers, policy makers, inspectors, criminal investigators, prosecutors, judges, and employees of international environmental and development organisations, among others. While private practitioners can be individual members of INECE, private sector companies affiliated with the Network only participate in a consultative capacity and do not participate in INECE decision-making or internal discussions among regulatory members. Additionally, to optimize INECE’s role in connecting government enforcers, Executive
Committee appointments will be limited to representatives of government agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

Over the past 30 years, INECE has published several reference books, led a variety of capacity-building programs, and developed a number of training courses. In addition, INECE has hosted 9 international conferences involving environmental compliance and enforcement practitioners from over 150 countries around the world, spanning Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Australia. The 10th international conference will take place in the fall of 2019 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

4. Core Objectives

1. Raise awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement.
   - INECE advocates for effective enforcement and governance to promote compliance with environmental law. This helps to secure public health and environmental protections around the world.
   - INECE emphasizes the need for practitioners to anticipate compliance concerns throughout the regulatory cycle.
   - INECE will support its members in articulating common principles that help ensure effective environmental enforcement and compliance.

2. Partner with existing global and regional networks focused on environmental compliance and enforcement activities
   - INECE is a “network of networks”, partnering with other international agencies and regional networks focused on environmental enforcement and compliance to share knowledge, ensure complementarity in projects, support effective actions, and facilitate inter-regional collaboration with national authorities.
   - INECE will foster and develop relationships with and between regional networks, enforcement agencies, practitioners and other stakeholders to support collaboration and information sharing among interested parties.
   - INECE will maintain a database of members and contacts in different enforcement agencies and networks around the world, which will be accessible to members.

3. Strengthen member capacity to implement and secure compliance with environmental requirements
   - INECE identifies and promotes best practices and cutting-edge techniques for effective compliance and enforcement, explores methods for combating environmental crime, shares resources, and implementation materials, and offers training and expertise to INECE members.
   - INECE helps to develop good practices for environmental compliance and enforcement around the globe.

4. Serve as a knowledge and innovation centre for environmental compliance and enforcement issues
   - INECE will share information through publications, webinars, and conferences to help improve knowledge, increase the circulation of important information and build capacity among its members. INECE will work to develop online databases updated with relevant
national regulations and cutting-edge scholarship on environmental compliance and enforcement.

- Members will have access to an online portal, accessible from the INECE website, which will provide a platform for them to discuss and exchange ideas with colleagues around the world. This portal will also provide access to training materials, publications, videos, recordings and webinars from recent events and activities.
- INECE facilitates access to data and tools that can be used for targeting analysis for government enforcers around the world.
- The Academic Committee will discuss areas of potential research, capacity-building or information-sharing with regulators, academics and professionals from INECE member countries, and seek opportunities to partner on projects addressing new and more effective methods.

5. **Provide members with opportunities to benchmark and innovate**

- INECE has to date reached practitioners from more than 150 countries around the world. This allows member countries to benchmark their performance against others around the world and look for support where they have identified gaps in their knowledge. INECE provides a platform to connect these practitioners and facilitate the identification of opportunities for partnerships, collaboration, and information-sharing.
- Members can coordinate with other countries that are facing similar challenges in the compliance and enforcement arena to exchange experiences, learn from examples of best practice, and work together to resolve practical issues through INECE.

6. **Support members to deliver a level playing field**

- The INECE Private Sector Consultative Council will provide a valuable source of information about private sector innovation relevant to environmental compliance and enforcement.
- INECE will support country-level efforts to develop tools for a strong and consistent enforcement program to achieve environmental goals and to help ensure fair competition between regulated entities.
- INECE will broker “twinning” arrangements between countries with the capacity and desire to share with countries that could benefit from such sharing.
- INECE will coordinate with its Private Sector Consultative Council as part of its effort to assess where capacity-building interventions may be needed, consider where supply chain management efforts have the potential to complement government accountability measures, and, where appropriate, support capacity-building programs and exchanges that can help achieve a level playing field.

7. **Respond to members’ needs and interests**

- INECE will engage with its members to determine what programmes, projects, and thematic areas it should focus on. In particular, the working groups of the Global Council will communicate with the Secretariat about the needs and interests arising in their work group area. For example, regional network liaisons will be responsible for representing topical areas of interest in their respective regions.
5. How We Work

INECE’s areas of work are selected based on the expressed needs and interests of its members and affiliates. Beyond identifying the set of core themes and subject areas on which INECE focuses, this involves identifying the most useful programmes and projects the network should pursue within these areas of focus. For the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, INECE has broadened its core thematic areas to accommodate new member interests and reflect the changing landscape of international environmental compliance and enforcement. INECE will prioritize the core thematic areas in accordance with the core objectives articulated in Section 4.

These core thematic areas are as follows:

POLLUTION CONTROL
Promoting compliance with air, water, toxic, waste, and soil pollution control laws will remain primary areas of concern, with due attention to both conventional pollution and emerging contaminants, as well as pollutants with transnational reach. INECE will promote knowledge transfer on the use of data analytics for compliance monitoring and enforcement targeting in this area, deploying twinning arrangements to match expertise within the INECE community with places of need.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION
A healthy base of natural resources is key to sustainable development and biodiversity preservation. The extraction and over-utilization of natural resources – marine and land-based – can have major implications for ecosystem health and longevity, and damage to natural resources is a common by-product of polluting activities. Promoting compliance with laws that address natural resource damage and depletion – programmatic areas that overlap with pollution control authorities in many jurisdictions – will be an increasingly important part of INECE’s attention going forward.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT
In a global market place, effective protection of each country’s domestic environment depends on effective controls at borders and ports aimed at ensuring that goods moving in commerce are environmentally compliant, and at stemming the movement of environmental contraband. INECE will bring important attention to transnational nature of many environment-impacting activities, and will harness knowledge-sharing opportunities to address common concerns, for example, through its Seaports Initiative.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE
Effective governance in the compliance assurance and enforcement arena, without which rule of law and a level compliance playing field will prove elusive, requires attention to all keys drivers of compliance behaviour, including government compliance and enforcement operations, private sector compliance managers, and citizen monitors and enforcers. The techniques and disciplines that undergird compliance assurance and enforcement effectiveness bear similarities across the areas of INECE focus, whether pollution control, natural resource protection, or border environmental controls. Facilitating knowledge transfer between countries and across subject matter areas, and building capacity for governance effectiveness, are central to the INECE mission.

In support of these thematic areas, INECE will stay at the cutting edge of compliance and enforcement techniques and technologies, with particular focus on monitoring and sensing, as well as on software platforms for synthesizing and sharing data. Equipping its membership with access to experts and resources to facilitate cost-effective, efficient, and high quality interventions, and
providing a mechanism for collaboration on programmes and projects which promote and develop best practices and innovative approaches to environmental compliance and enforcement, are at the heart of the INECE mission.

Within each of these thematic areas, members are invited to collaborate on programmes and projects which promote and develop best practice and innovative approaches to environmental compliance and enforcement. Members may also propose new thematic areas.

6. Membership
INECE is expanding its membership base to deliver its stated objectives. A global network of environmental enforcement practitioners will only be truly effective if it has broad representation that allows for experts to be engaged in the development of environmental rule of law, and informed about innovative strategies to promote environmental compliance and enforcement.

In October 2017, INECE began a transition to a membership model in which members pay an annual fee in exchange for access to member benefits, including participation in capacity-building activities, access to INECE resources, and inclusion in the Membership database. Previously, funding came primarily from direct funding from government agencies involved in INECE. Membership in INECE is open to anyone working to advance environmental compliance and enforcement. Membership is open to individuals and most organizations; however, private sector companies that participate in the Private Sector Consultative Council will not be INECE members. The Consultative Council will collaborate with INECE members to suggest areas of focus and/or help deliver specific programs, but will not play any decision-making role in INECE.¹

Three tiers of membership are currently available to interested members²:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Membership</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Membership</td>
<td>Open to government employees, professionals, researchers and students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Membership</td>
<td>Government and intergovernmental organisations, regulatory authorities, development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>banks, academic organisations, NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate Membership</td>
<td>Secretariats of international and regional networks, including partner organisations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Governance
To support its ambitions, INECE requires a robust governance structure. All members of INECE’s governance bodies are drawn from INECE’s membership base, other than the Private Sector Consultative Council.

Global Council
The Global Council consists of environmental compliance and enforcement leaders from around the world who provide INECE with non-binding strategic advice on strategies, barriers, and opportunities to strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement. The Global Council builds partnerships

¹ Individual members from the private sector may join as individual members but will not participate in INECE decision-making or internal discussions among regulatory members. If there are any documents that members have requested be restricted to regulatory agencies, they will be protected accordingly.
² [https://www.inece.org/membership/](https://www.inece.org/membership/)
and advocates for strong national implementation and enforcement to advance environmental compliance at all levels of governance. Each member of the Global Council will participate as part of a specific working group or committee within the Global Council. Their roles and responsibilities within that working group will be determined by the chair of the working group. Examples of possible working groups include the Academic Committee, the Regional Liaison Group, etc.

Each government with institutional membership may elect to have a representative on the Global Council to help inform the strategic direction of the network. Each regional enforcement network appoints one representative to the Global Council in accordance with its own operating protocols. The Executive Committee of the Global Council will appoint additional representatives to the Global Council, as appropriate.

**Executive Committee**
The Executive Committee is the administrative arm of the Global Council and serves as the governing body of INECE. It is responsible for the management of INECE and for responding to the ideas of both the Global Council and the paying members of the network. The Executive Committee is responsible for approving and assuring the implementation of the INECE Strategic Vision and work programs in cooperation of the Secretariat. Each Executive Committee member may choose to have a representative on the Staff Group to assist in day-to-day operations of the Network. Committee appointments will be limited to representatives of government agencies and intergovernmental organizations. The term length of each Executive Committee member is three years, with opportunity for renewal.

**Secretariat**
INECE is supported by a Secretariat, which is based in the Environmental Law Institute in the United States of America. The Secretariat is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the network, including providing support to the Executive Committee, Global Council, and Staff Group.

The Secretariat is also the key point of contact for the network’s members. This includes managing applications to join INECE and facilitating and administering internal and external communications (such as the newsletter and website). The Secretariat is responsible for the financial management of the network.

**Staff Group**
The Staff Group is responsible for supporting and delivering the strategic direction of the network, as determined by the Executive Committee, Global Council, and the network’s paying members. Staff group members may be appointed by Executive Committee members or selected by the Secretariat, based on need.

**Members**
INECE members inform the direction of the network. The members propose themes and projects for the network to focus on, strengthen capacity in member countries, share opportunities to enhance compliance and enforcement in member countries, and collaborate to further INECE’s goals. INECE Members are the targeted beneficiaries of all INECE activities.

**Private Sector Consultative Council**
The Private Sector Consultative Council will serve in an advisory capacity for INECE in terms of providing information and assisting in the development of capacity-building programs of interest to member countries. The Private Sector Consultative Council has no decision-making power within INECE.
8. Further Information

For more information on the INECE network, please visit our website: [https://www.inece.org/](https://www.inece.org/)

Alternatively, you can contact the Secretariat at: [inece@inece.org](mailto:inece@inece.org)

For information on becoming a member of INECE, please visit: [http://www.inece.org/about/membership](http://www.inece.org/about/membership)

To sign up for our free newsletter, please visit: [https://www.inece.org/about/contact/](https://www.inece.org/about/contact/)