



Assessment of information exchange mechanisms used in cases of illegal shipments of waste

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Work Package 4: International Operational Networking in EU - Asia Pacific Region

Activity 4.1: Assessment of information exchange mechanisms

Deliverable: D 4.1: Inventory of needs and possibilities



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1. INTRODUCTION

Work package 4 of the WasteForce project is aiming at supporting international operational networking between the EU and the Asia-Pacific region through information-sharing activities and dedicated training materials. The project will contribute to build stronger relationships among key stakeholders in the cross-border waste chain that can continue after the project.

WP4 results in four deliverables. The current deliverable 4.1 provides an inventory of needs and possibilities related to the information exchange mechanisms. Deliverable 4.2 is an assessment of information exchange mechanisms for international operational networking. Deliverable 4.3 provides guidance on prosecuting Waste Crime and deliverable 4.4 is a collection of good practices to support the EU-Asia collaboration, especially on the repatriation of illegal waste shipments.

One of the outputs of the WasteForce project is to deliver an assessment of information exchange mechanisms for international operational networking. This deliverable was prepared by UNEP and UNU on the basis of a confidential survey led by UNEP to provide an inventory of needs and possibilities regarding the current mechanisms for exchange of information on illegal trade in waste, in particular between EU countries and Asian Pacific countries. This survey was sent to 307 persons of various organizations which are involved in dealing with illegal waste shipments and located mainly Europe and Asia.

This document describes the results of the survey, organizations and countries where they work and their experience in relation to illegal waste shipments. A total of 31 questions were asked and the answers on all questions are described and analysed in this report.

The results are kept anonymous and the final assessment will be shared with all the survey participants and made available as a confidential document to the relevant authorities interested in the tools provided under the WasteForce project. On the basis of this need assessment, deliverable 4.2 will then describe the existing information exchange tools or mechanisms, the most frequently exchanged kind of information, and the authorities involved and deliverable 4.4 will provide recommendations to promote good and successful collaboration in dealing with repatriation of illegal waste shipments from Asia to Europe.

2. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The survey was sent to 307 participants in various countries mainly Europe and Asia. 106 persons participated in the survey, representing 39 countries including two African countries and international organizations such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The African countries received the survey via an international organization which sent it also to its members outside Europe and Asia. The country which delivered the most responses was Poland with 31 responses.

(Related to Q1: Which country are you working in?)

Most of the participants, 60 persons, work for Environmental authorities followed by Customs, 25 persons. Five respondents work for international organizations and the others for Police and Border Guard services.

(Q2: Which organization/ authority are you working for?)

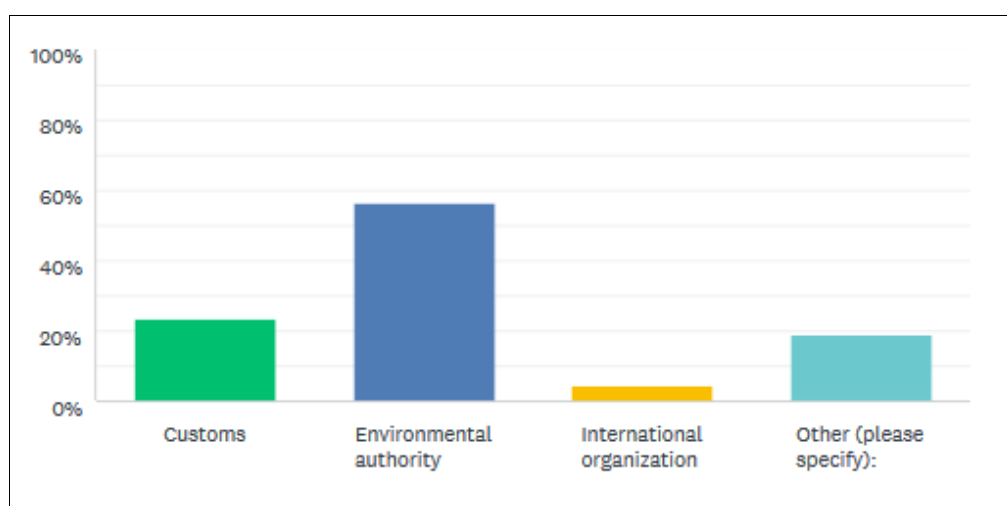


Figure 1: Which organizations participants are working for? (Q2)

Nearly 60% of the participants have worked for more than 10 years for their organization, 18% for between 5-10 years, 20% between 1-5 years and 2% for less than 1 year.

(Q3: How long are you working for your organization/ authority?)

The experience with illegal waste shipments was high, 88% answered that they had experience with this matter.

(Q4: Do you have any experience with illegal waste shipments?)

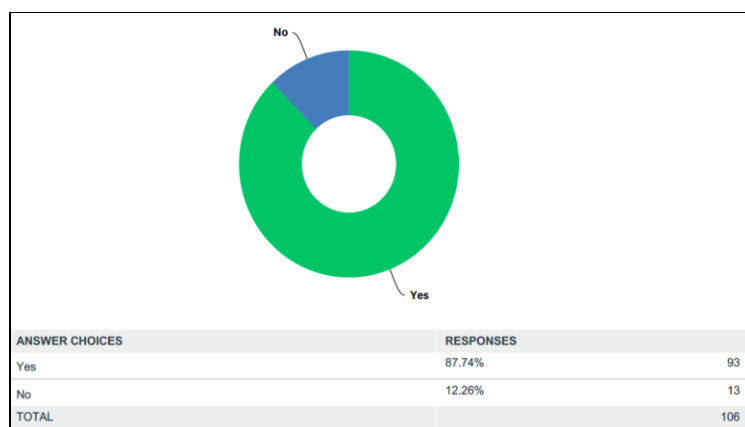


Figure 2: Participants' experience with illegal waste shipments (Q4)

The next question helped determine if the experiences of the participants were related to import, export or transit of illegal waste. Many participants have experience in more than just one of these choices. 74% answered that they have experience with illegal waste imports, 56% with illegal exports, 45% with transit of illegal shipments and 13% answered that they had no experience with illegal waste shipments.

(Q5: Your experience to illegal waste shipments is related to?)

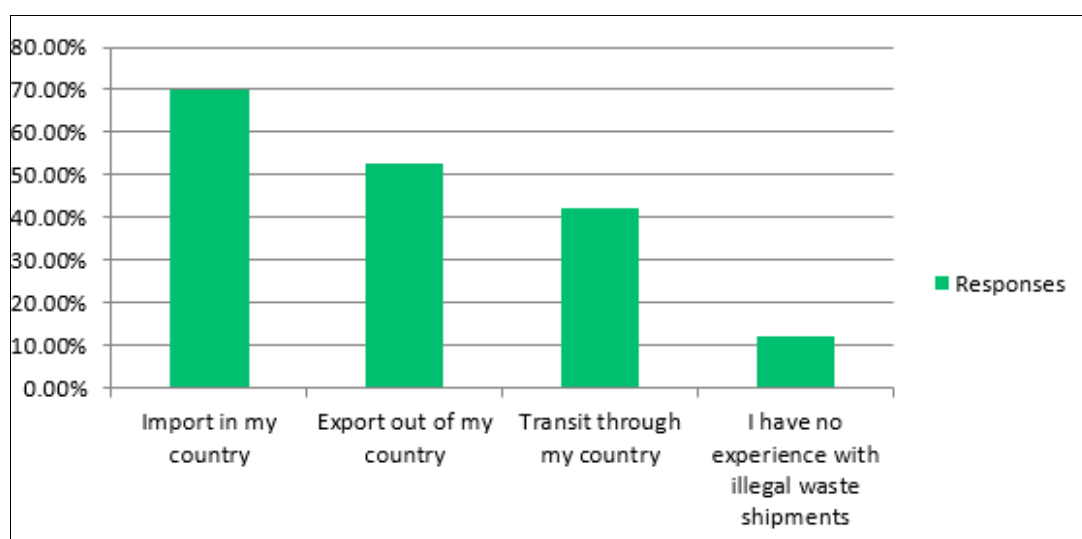


Figure 3: Your experience with illegal waste shipments is related to (Q5) Note: the total percentages can be more than 100% because the participants could choose multiple options

30 participants answered to have been involved in more than 20 cases, 19 participants were never involved in illegal waste shipments, 10 were involved in one shipment, 22 in 2-5 cases and 12 persons in 6-10 cases and 13 persons in 11-20 cases of illegal shipments.

(Q6: How many illegal waste cases have you worked on?)

Most of the participants (48) were involved as front-line officer, 35 as experts, 38 were responsible for the follow-up action including the repatriation, 10 had no experience and 21 were involved in other roles.

These other roles were mostly related to intelligence and investigations.

(Q7: What has been your role regarding illegal waste shipments?)

Regarding the question on the existence of agreements with other national authorities regarding waste shipments, 53 participants replied that there is an agreement with environmental authorities, 51 participants are working in an organization which has an agreement with Customs, 31 mentioned an agreement with the Police and 21 participants answered that their organizations have an agreement with Port authorities. 15 participants have no idea regarding the agreements and 20 participants have answered that there are agreements with others. These 'others' are mainly the transport inspectorate and the border guard. Several respondents answered that there is no agreement at all.

(Q8: Do you know if your organization has agreements for dealing with (illegal) waste shipments with (one of the) national organizations/authorities?)

3. DETECTION OF ILLEGAL WASTE SHIPMENTS

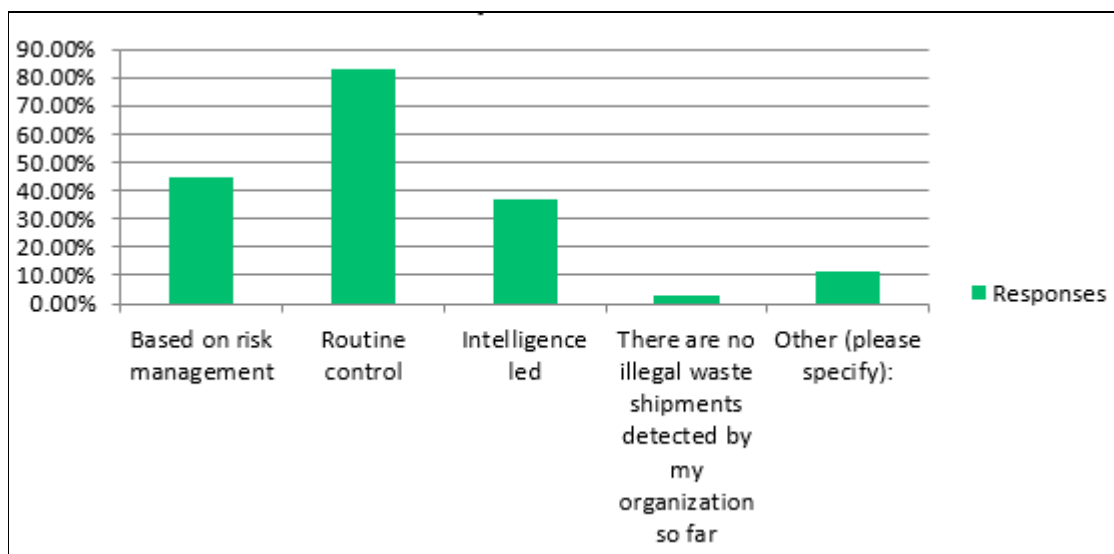


Figure 4: Experience on how illegal waste shipments were detected (Q9)

The participants answered that detection was based on risk management (47 participants), routine control (88 participants) and intelligence led (39 participants). 3 participants answered that no illegal shipments were detected by their organizations, 12 participants gave other reasons for the detection such as the use of informants, complaints or as result of site-inspections.

(Q9: In your experience, how were illegal waste shipments detected?)

The participants were asked which intelligence exchange mechanism was used in the cases where the detection of the illegal waste shipment was intelligence led.

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