

# Inter-institutional Group against Environmental Crime

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# The starting point!

- Albania is rich of natural resources
- High pressure to invest in these natural gems
- Poor environmental performance
- **A transition was needed**
- An innovative approach toward implementation

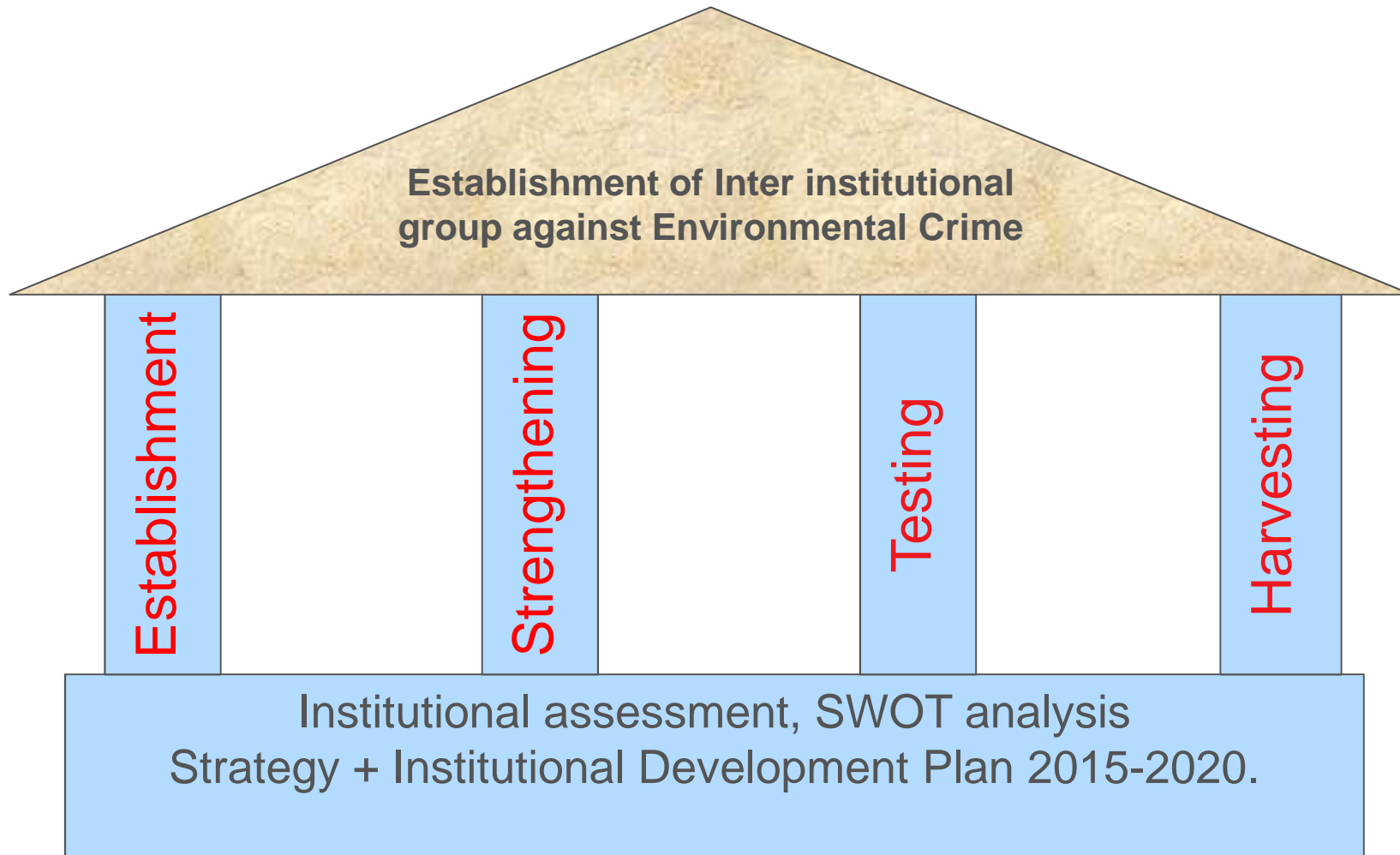


## Did we reinvent the wheel?

Italy	Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela dell'Ambiente
Spain	Specialized police force - SEPRONA
France	Inter-institutional Unit OCLAESP
Germany	Scientific-technical department, which deals with environmental crimes and supports the investigating units.
Sweden	Specialized Prosecution unit dealing with environmental crime.
Great Britain	Environmental Agency has competences to prosecute environmental crimes.
Scotland	Environmental Crime Task Force.
<b>Albania</b>	<b>Inter-institutional Group against Environmental Crime.</b>



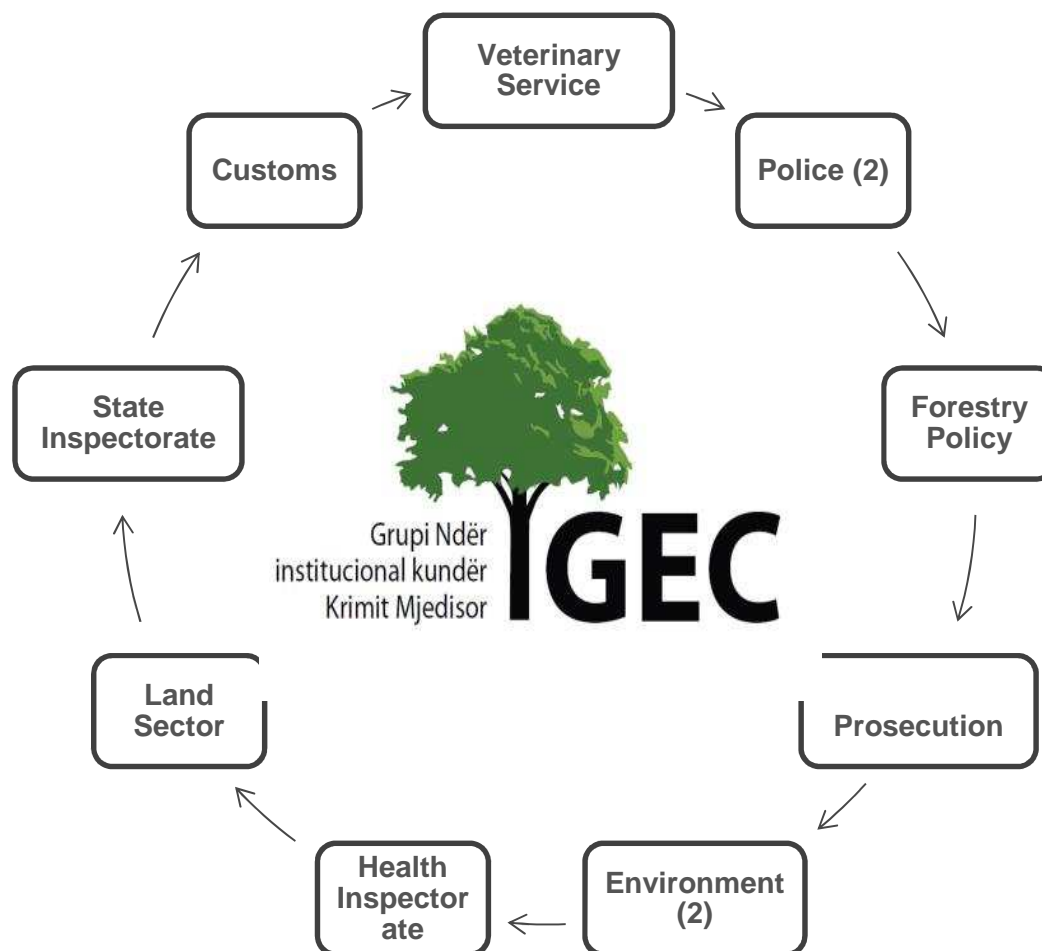
# I. Our innovation approach based on practise.



## II. Mandate, membership, structure of IGEC.

Mandate

*Ministerial order No.615 dated, 03.06.2015*



### III. Strengthening the IGEC team.



10 vocational trainings

Partner introduction

Site visits

Joint trainings

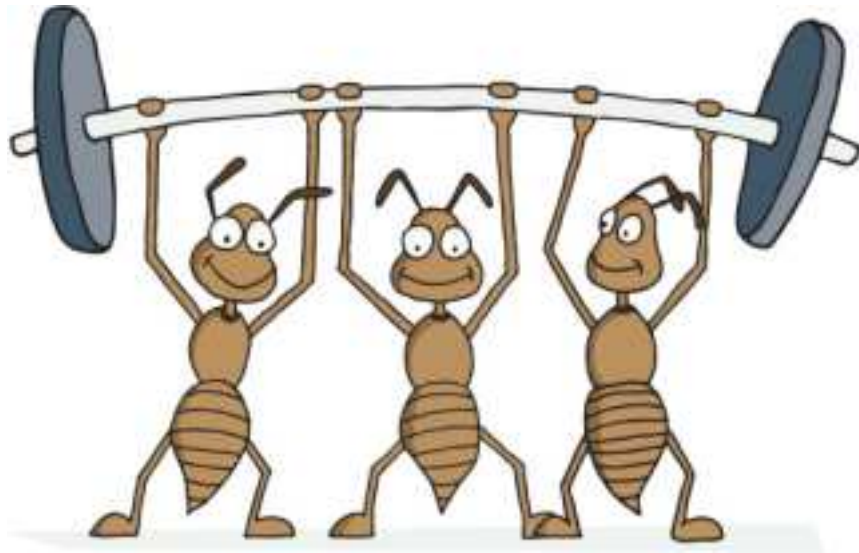
Joint inspections

Understanding env/crime Inter-agency approach

EU accredited qualification SQA



## IV. Testing the capacities received 2017.



**T** - Together  
**E** - Everyone  
**A** - Achieves  
**M** - More

Instruments used

- Protection
- Prevention
- Prosecution

## 4.1 Protection

- Border Control and Inter-Agency Co-operation on Environmental Crime
- Inter-Inspectorate Trainings on Healthcare Waste Management
- Environmental Investigations Crime





## 4.2 Prevention



**Established a link with authorities and established a technical forum with CSOs at local level**

- Durres custom inspection on **waste import**
- Tirana co-ordination meeting on **illegal hospital waste**
- Kukes meeting on **illegal fishing** and lake pollution
- Vlora meeting on **marine pollution**, dynamite fishing
- Bulqiza **illegal logging and forest crime**
- Patos/Roskovec **land pollution** from industrial and oil chemicals

## 4.3 Prosecution

- Border Control and Inter-Agency Co-operation on Environmental Crime
- Inter-Inspectorate Trainings on Healthcare Waste Management
- Trainings on Environmental Crime Investigation



## 5. What worked well!

Before IGEC	After IGEC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No sharing of information</li>   <li>- No understanding of environmental crimes within many institutions</li>   <li>- Cases referred usually as forgery, corruption, falsification of papers, fraud</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased co-operation and understanding of each other roles</li>   <li>- Increased understanding of environmental crimes</li>   <li>- Joint inspections which before were done separately and kept only at single institutions discretion</li>   <li>- CSOs started to refer cases – 25 concrete cases referred</li> </ul>

## 6. What doesn't work well!

- Commitment of certain members who were not very responsive
- Lack of shadow replacement for IGEC members
- Difficulties in immediate reactions when dealing with big groups
- No central command behaviour in cases of environmental emergency

## 7. Harvesting the IGEC outcomes!

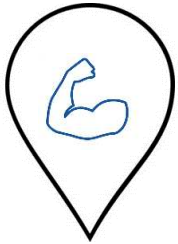
2018-2020 will be a crucial period to harvest the outcome of the IGEC work

### Indicators:

- Rapid reaction of IGEC in environmental emergency cases
- Enforced legislation in place tackling environmental crime
- Number of preventive and prosecuted cases



## 7. SWOT analysis



### Strengths

- Inter-agency and representative approach
- 12 trained members and 10 specialised agencies engaged



### Weakness

- Conflict of interest of institutions
- Lack of resources and logistics
- Long time commitment to achieve results
- Environmental crime not yet a priority in practice



### Opportunities

- Reduction of environmental crimes
- Preventive approach of a multi-agency group
- Continuity of expertise

## 8. Conclusions

- Environmental crime is a new form of crime in Albania that needed a **new approach** to be tackled, however this approach needs time to prove effectiveness
- It is expensive to address such crimes: resources, investigation, facts, long monitoring, therefore **IGEC and inter-agency** actions can address such shortcoming
- Inter-agency needs to provide **an urgent response** to build a culture of law enforcement in the environmental crime area
- These crimes are not only ***national*** but also cross-national and transnational, thus a **strong national and international** network is a must to respond timely

## Reference documents

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1. Ministry of Environment, “*Ministerial order no. 615*, dated on 15.06.2015
2. Albanian General Prosecution Office annual report 2016, [www.pp.gov.al](http://www.pp.gov.al)
3. National Agency for Environment, [www.akm.gov.al](http://www.akm.gov.al)
4. EFFACE, “*Synthesis of the Research Project “European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime”* (EFFACE), [www.efface.eu](http://www.efface.eu)