



From challenge to action: Get ready for the FLR implementation

SMEs focus – online webinar

16 September 14:30-16:30



Presentation on FLR guidelines and preparedness package

DG GROW Forced Labour Team

Forced labour: facts & figures

--- KEY FIGURES (GLOBAL) -----



--- FORCED LABOUR ESTIMATES BY REGION (GLOBAL) -----



--- FORCED LABOUR ESTIMATES BY SECTOR (GLOBAL) -----



Source: ILO, Walk Free and IOM (2022) "Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage"

Forced labour: facts & figures

- **Type of forced labour:** privately imposed (86%), State-imposed (14%) [Source: ILO Global Estimates of Modern Slavery]
- **Geographic distribution:** highest number of people in forced labour: Asia-Pacific region (55% of total); highest prevalence: Arab States (5.3 per thousand) [Source: ILO Global Estimates of Modern Slavery]
- **Product distribution:** High-risk sectors: manufacturing (electronics, garment), agriculture (cocoa, cotton, fish), mining (gold) and other (fireworks, bricks) [Source: US ILAB List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor]

Forced Labour Regulation

Key elements



BANS ON THE EU MARKET FOR THE SALE, IMPORT AND EXPORT OF PRODUCTS MADE USING FORCED LABOUR. ALL PRODUCTS AND ALL TYPES OF FORCED LABOUR



BANS ON SPECIFIC PRODUCTS BASED ON DEDICATED INVESTIGATIONS. COMMISSION DEALS WITH CASES OF FORCED LABOUR OUTSIDE THE EU, NATIONAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES WITH CASES WITHIN THE EU

Implementation roadmap



14 DECEMBER 2024: ADOPTION OF THE FORCED LABOUR REGULATION (FLR)



JUNE 2026 - NOVEMBER 2027: PREPAREDNESS AND SET UP OF INVESTIGATIVE FRAMEWORK



14 DEC 2027 ONWARDS: FLR BECOMES APPLICABLE, START OF INVESTIGATIONS



1ST BAN ONWARDS: ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

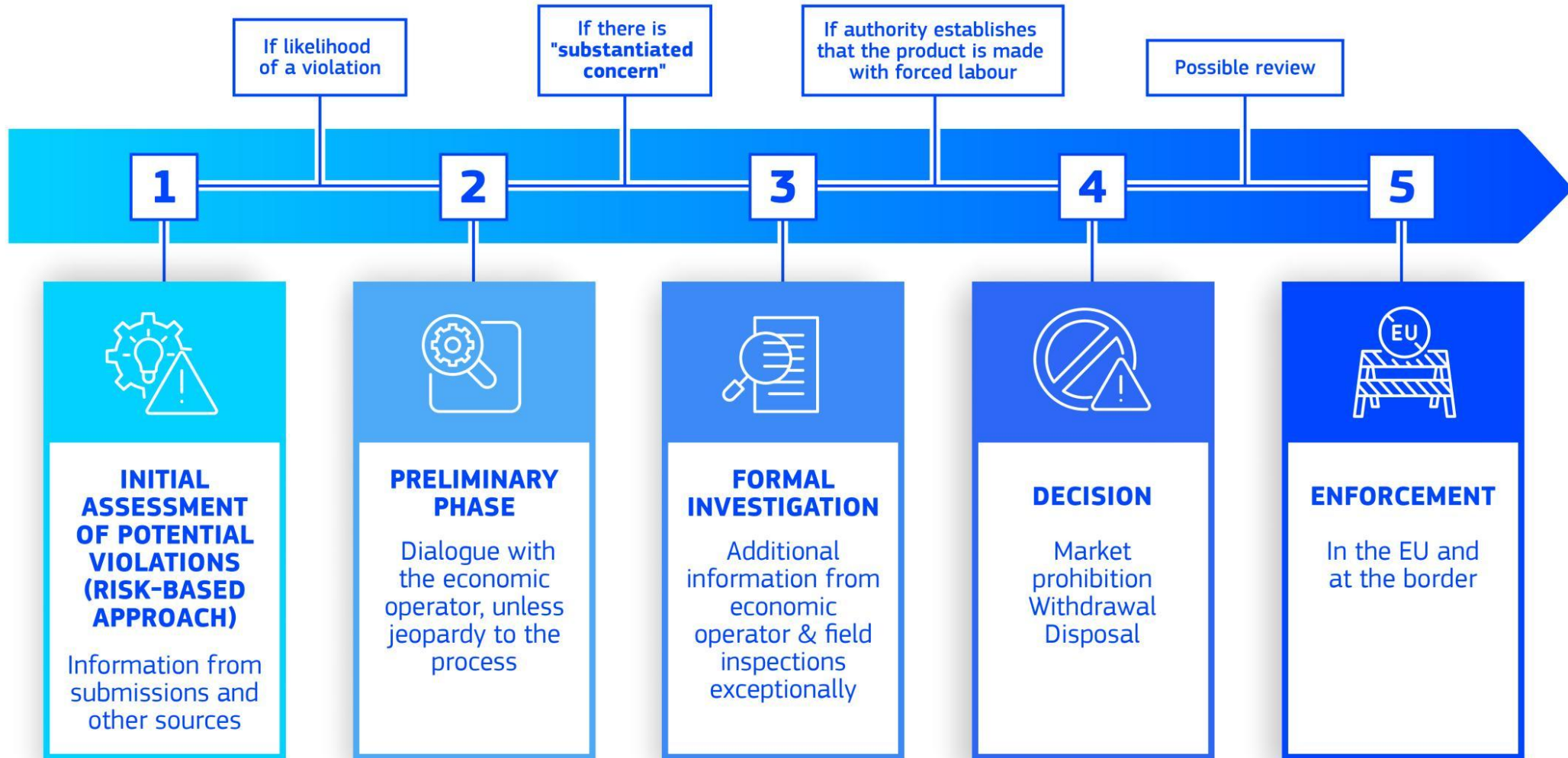


TIME TO PREPARE IS NOW



European
Commission

Investigative and Enforcement Process



Getting ready for the Regulation to apply



FORCED LABOUR SINGLE PORTAL

Guidelines

List of competent
authorities

**SMEs and other
support measures**

**Public database of
forced labour risks
areas / products
(upcoming)**

**Single information
submission point
(from December
2027)**

Guidelines: structure and content

I. SCOPE OF THE REGULATION

- Products and companies covered
- Key definitions
- Forced labour indicators

II. INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

- Case prioritisation
- Information requests
- Evidence assessment, including non-cooperation
- Decisions: content, review, withdrawal
- Cooperation at national and EU level

III. ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

- Enforcement at the borders
- Enforcement within the EU
- Calculation of penalties for non-compliance

IV. DUE DILIGENCE

- Voluntary actions to address forced labour risks
- Legal framework
- Due diligence process (OECD 6 steps)
 - Tailored guidance for SMEs
 - State-imposed forced labour

V. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

- How can petitioners submit information
- Types of evidence accepted
- Handling and treatment of submissions

Relevant elements for Economic Operators



Cooperation with authorities

- Examples of documents that can be requested (case by case basis)
- Once-only principle for information requests
- Size and resources of EO are taken into account
- Non-cooperation is in principle considered evidence (decision based on any other relevant facts available)



Right to be heard

- In preliminary investigation stage through a request for information (30 days with possible extension to reply)
- Possibility to address concerns before investigation is launched (and be granted an extension to complete steps)
- At formal investigation stage EO is informed of the initiation, products and reasons and invited to submit additional information



Voluntary due diligence for FL

- No new due diligence obligations
- SME specific guidance
- Due diligence efforts to comply with other EU legislation are useful in the investigative process
- State-imposed forced labour guidance



Examples of documents that can be requested

Information is requested on a case-by-case basis. Providing information listed as example does not guarantee the product will not be subject to a ban



Information on EO's actions to identify, prevent, mitigate, bring to an end or remediate risks of forced labour



Information on working conditions at the site of the alleged forced labour



Information about the product alleged to be made with forced labour

- Product identification
 - Supply chain structure and actors
 - Facility and location information
 - Transactional and logistic records
 - Production and capacity evidence

SMEs and other support measures

Anti-forced Labour Preparedness Checklist

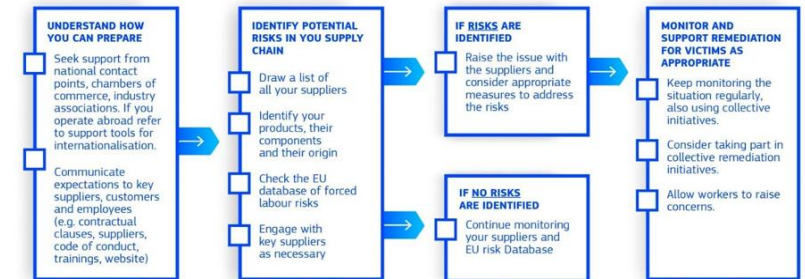
Sector specific webinars

Risk database
(upcoming)

Free traceability tools

Anti-Forced Labour Preparedness Checklist

How to avoid selling products made with forced labour in the EU



COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR EMPLOYEES AND STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT YOUR POLICIES AND EFFORTS TO COMBAT FORCED LABOUR (eg. on your website)

Tools and resources



Resources by role

I am a business	+
I am a competent authority	+
I am a civil society organisation	+

Upcoming webinars

Sector specific webinars to support SMEs

Solar sector

• 13 October 14:30

Textile sector

• 20 October 14:30

Electronics and semiconductors sector

• 12 November 14:30

Agri-food sector

• 17 November 14:30

Automotive sector

• 19 November 14:30

Fishing sector

• 24 November 14:30

Anti-Forced Labour Preparedness Checklist

How to avoid selling products made with forced labour in the EU



COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR EMPLOYEES AND STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT YOUR POLICIES AND EFFORTS TO COMBAT FORCED LABOUR (eg. on your website)



International dimension of the FLR implementation

DG TRADE - Forced Labour team

International cooperation

MARKET BAN

- European Union

IMPORT BAN

- US
- Canada
- Mexico
- India
- Indonesia
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Dominican Republic
- Honduras
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Israel

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS AND CONSIDERING BANS

- UK
- Australia
- New Zealand

CONSIDERING BANS

- Bangladesh, Malaysia, Philippines
- Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia

International cooperation – Provisions

Article 13 FLR: *“The Commission shall, as appropriate, cooperate and exchange information with authorities of third countries, international organisations, civil society representatives, trade unions, business organisations and other relevant stakeholders”*

Focus on **cooperation with third-country authorities** through exchanges of information

FORMAT

- Existing dialogue structures (human rights / political dialogues, TSD /GSP dialogues, development cooperation initiatives)
- New ad hoc structures, if necessary

CONTENT

- Risk products or areas
- Best practices to combat forced labour
- Decisions to ban products (including reasons and evidence)

ADDITIONAL TOOLS

Development cooperation initiatives / accompanying measures (also by Member States)



Enterprise Europe Network 2025- 2028

Martina ORSULOVA

European Commission, DG GROW

Sophie PAILLARD

Bretagne Compétitivité (France)
EEN TG Single Market co-chair



The **world's** largest **support**
Network for innovative **SMEs**
with **international** ambitions



Network Composition



**Specialised private /
public bodies**



**Regional government
or development
/ innovation agencies**



Economic Chambers



**Research
Institutes /
Science parks**



**Professional
associations**



Other

The Network **in figures**



581

Organisations



55

Countries, present in all
regions of the EU

3000

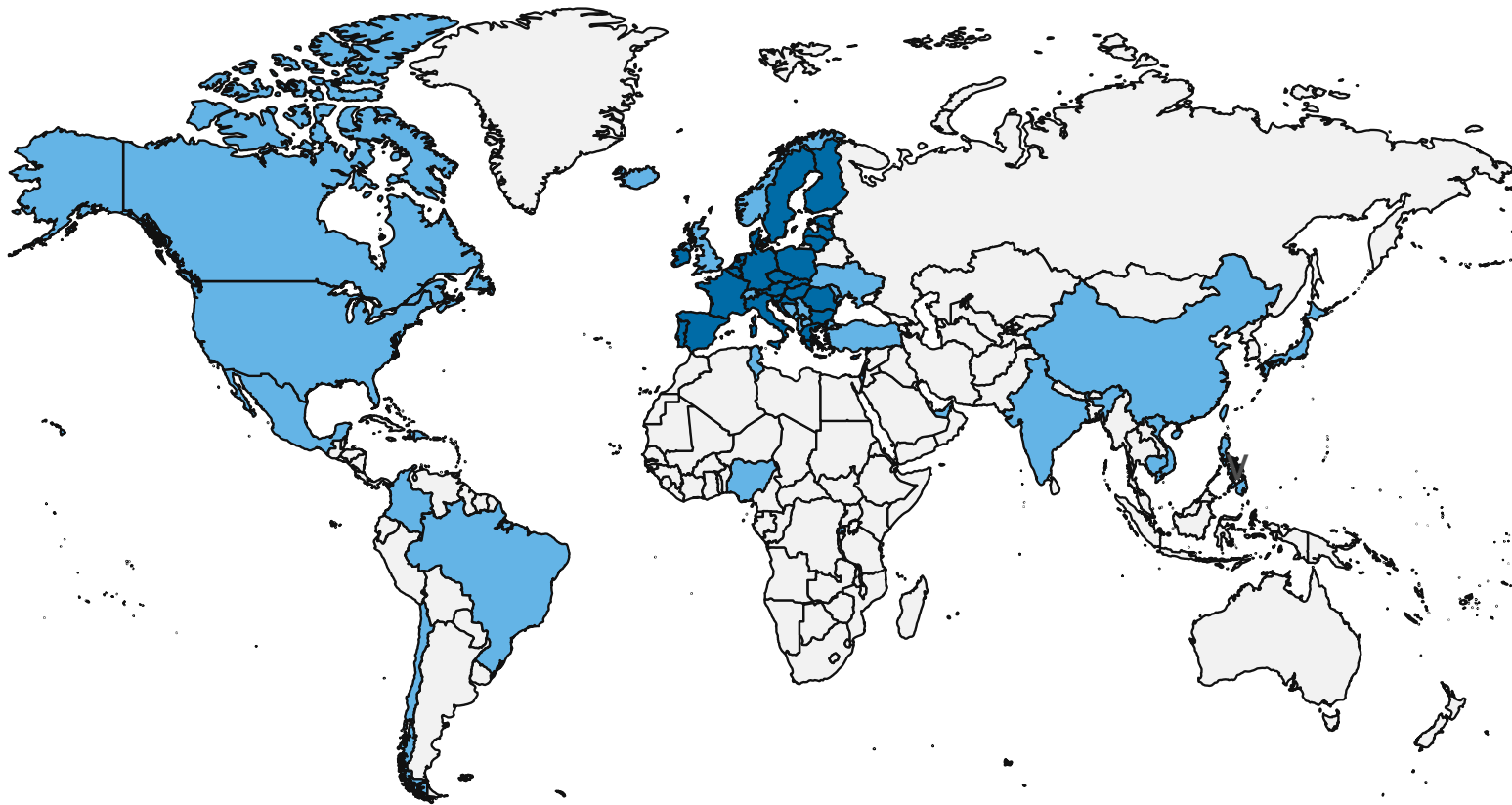
Advisors



+260K

companies supported
every year

i.e. **since 2008** around **4**
Mio EU SMEs benefited
from the support



EU-27

- ♦ Austria
- ♦ Belgium
- ♦ Bulgaria
- ♦ Croatia
- ♦ Cyprus
- ♦ Czechia
- ♦ Denmark
- ♦ Estonia
- ♦ Finland
- ♦ France
- ♦ Germany
- ♦ Greece
- ♦ Hungary
- ♦ Ireland
- ♦ Italy
- ♦ Latvia
- ♦ Lithuania
- ♦ Luxembourg
- ♦ Malta
- ♦ Netherlands
- ♦ Poland
- ♦ Portugal
- ♦ Romania

- ♦ Slovakia
- ♦ Slovenia
- ♦ Spain
- ♦ Sweden

- ♦ Montenegro
- ♦ North Macedonia
- ♦ Mexico
- ♦ Nigeria

International

- ♦ Albania
- ♦ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ♦ Brazil
- ♦ Cambodia
- ♦ Canada
- ♦ Caribbean
- ♦ Chile
- ♦ China
- ♦ Colombia
- ♦ Georgia
- ♦ Iceland
- ♦ India
- ♦ Israel
- ♦ Japan
- ♦ Kosovo
- ♦ Mexico
- ♦ Moldova

- ♦ Norway
- ♦ Philippines
- ♦ Rwanda
- ♦ Serbia
- ♦ Singapore
- ♦ Switzerland
- ♦ Taiwan
- ♦ Tunisia
- ♦ Turkey
- ♦ United Arab Emirates
- ♦ United Kingdom
- ♦ United States
- ♦ Ukraine
- ♦ Vietnam

Disclaimer: Some countries' agreements might still be in process of being signed

Find your local contact point - Enterprise Europe Network

Find your local contact point

Get in touch with your local Network contact point by selecting the country / territory and city closest to where your business is based. They can help you with advice, support and opportunities for international partnerships.



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Find your local contact point using the map

- Or -

[Get in touch](#)

- Or -

Choose your location

EU

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czechia
Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece
Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia
Slovenia	Spain	Sweden			

Non-EU

Albania	Barbados	Bosnia And Herzegovina	Brazil	Cambodia	Canada
Chile	China	Colombia	Georgia	Iceland	India
Israel	Japan	Kosovo	Mexico	Moldova	Montenegro
Nigeria	North Macedonia	Norway	Philippines	Rwanda	Serbia
Singapore	Switzerland	Taiwan	Tunisia	Türkiye	Ukraine
United Arab Emirates	United Kingdom	United States	Vietnam		

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Business partnering

Tailored-made services

Access to finance
and EU funding

EU Single Market
(policies, rules and
legislation)

Internationalisation
(partners and **market
access**)

Innovation
(collaboration and
technology transfer) –
novelty and
competitiveness

Resilience and risk
management
(**addressing
challenges and
disruptions**)

Digitalisation
support

Sustainability and
circular economy

**Start-ups and Scale-
ups** (growth,
strategy,
acceleration)

**Women
entrepreneurs**
(addressing untapped
potential)

Intellectual property
protection (economic
benefit of
innovations)

Sector groups (groups of experts)



Textiles



Creative & Cultural
Industries



Retail



Digital



Health



Agri Food



Tourism



Aerospace
& Defence



Renewable
Energy



Construction



Energy Intensive
Industries



Maritime
Industries



Proximity and
Social Economy



Electronics



Mobility- Transport-
Automotive

Cooperation & Client needs come 1st!

EEN – DNA: pull of **expertise** and **resources** & **sharing** them within the network for the capacity building, facilitation and **clients' benefit**

CLIENT JOURNEY

- Client-centric, zooming on real and developing needs (*mission and vision, current and future success*)
- Customised: tailored (*size, sector, challenge, age of company*) and not one-fit-all services
- Long-lasting and adjustable, as need be



HUB and SPOKE model: ensures high **quality** of services, satisfaction and significant **KPIs**

- Lead EEN member (a 'client owner') - HUB
- Individual / specialised service provider (within EEN or external stakeholder – best suited or best placed)
- Expertise pull and intensive capacity building to **address complex challenges**

Thematic Group Single Market

We can help you with...



Complying with EU rules

We help ensure your products follow EU regulations and standards and help you understand them



Selling and working in other countries

We guide you on how to sell your products and services across Europe and manage your employees in different countries



Cooperation with EU stakeholders

We work with other expert networks such as SOLVIT, Your Europe Advice and EU Sanctions Helpdesk to provide you with the best advice and help solve any challenges you come across



Guidance on European tools designed for SMEs

We guide SMEs through the EU ecosystem to help them overcome barriers, ensure compliance, and grow across markets

Thematic Group Single Market

Our Initiatives



Monthly EU Single Market Regulatory Watch

We produce a monthly regulatory watch covering key EU Single Market developments, including product compliance, digital regulation, sustainability, and market access, to support EEN advisors and SMEs with up-to-date, practical insights.

EU Regulatory Webinars

We organise webinars on hot regulatory topics for EEN advisors and SMEs, featuring speakers from the European Commission and other key EU stakeholders, to clarify new rules and their concrete business impacts.

EU Single Market Tools for SMES

We promote European tools designed for SMEs, such as Single Market Obstacle Tools, the EU AI Act Compliance Checker, the Food Labelling Information System, and AI-based multilingual services.

p

Thank you!

Follow us @EEN_EU



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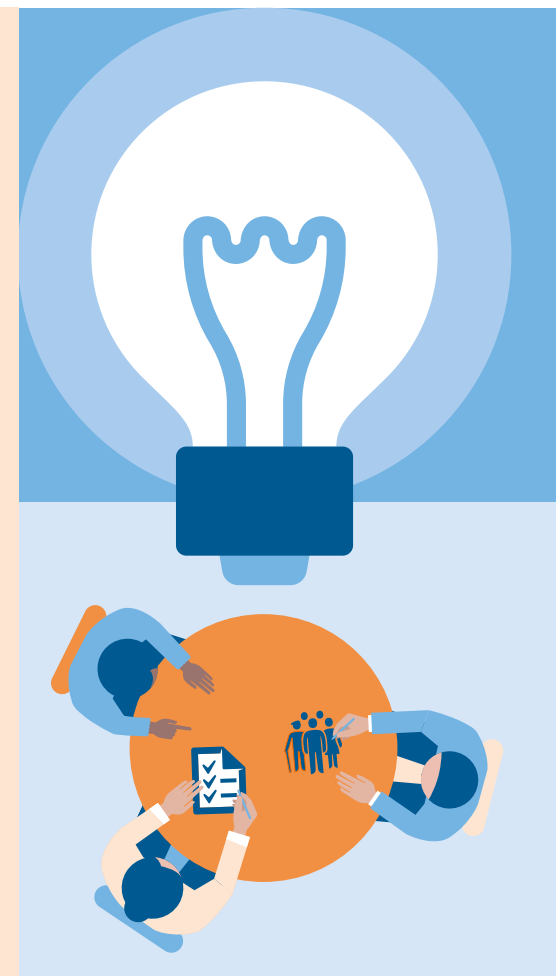
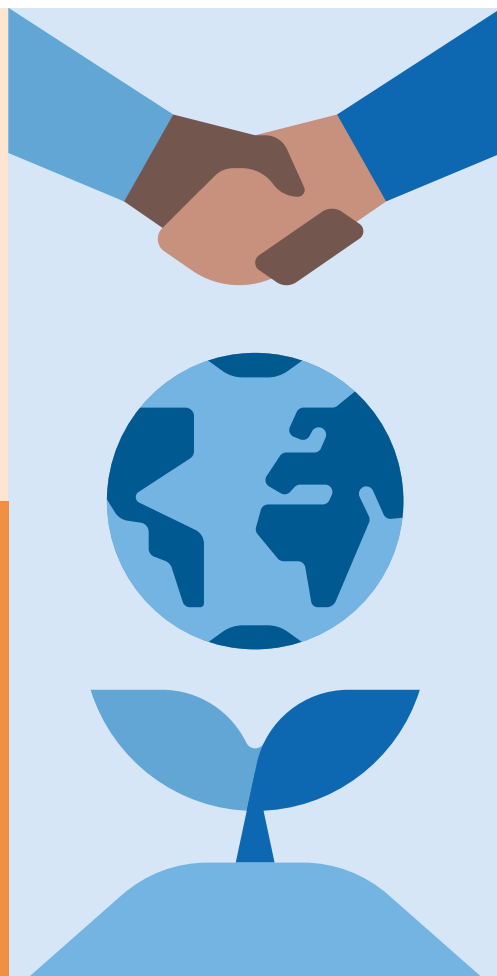




The Netherlands RBC Helpdesk

September 16, 2026

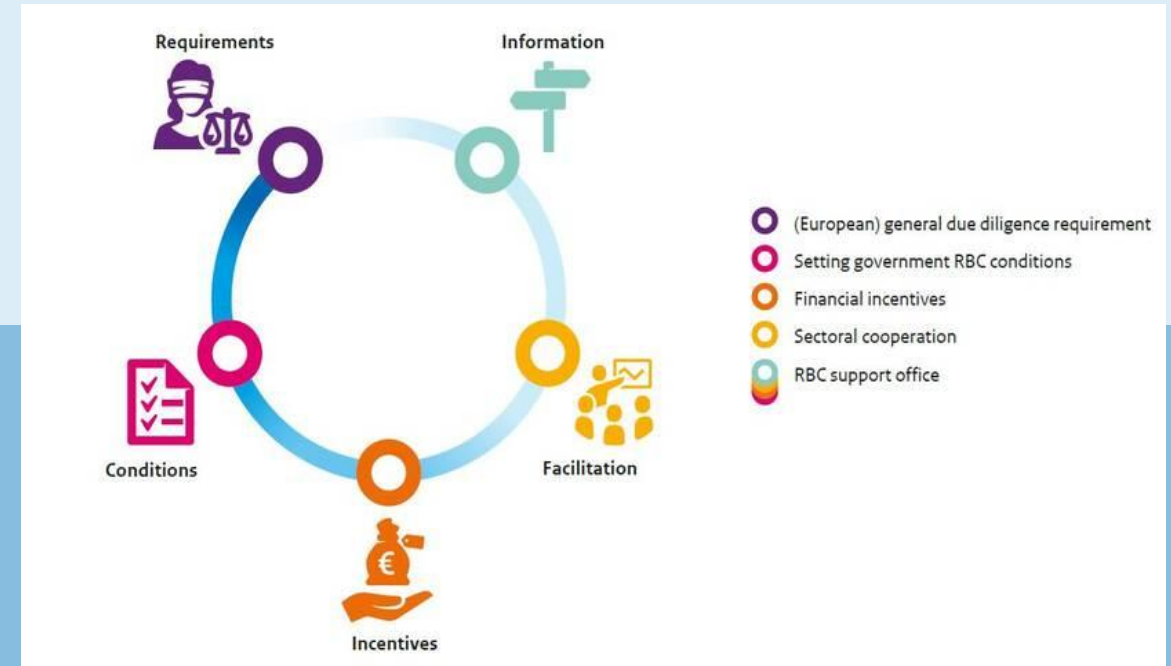
Rosanne van Vianen, Advisor RBC





The Netherlands RBC Helpdesk

- Operational since 2023
- Part of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Goal: to support companies to implement the OECD Guidelines and prepare for new legislation.
- Target audience: Dutch companies, mainly SMEs





Our services



**RBC
information**



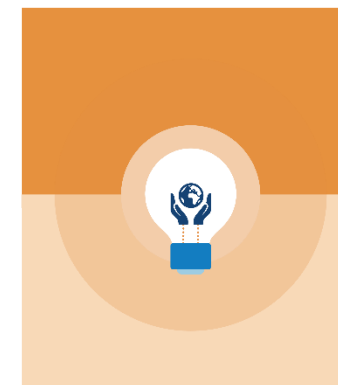
**Personalized
advice**



**Project
financing**



Connect

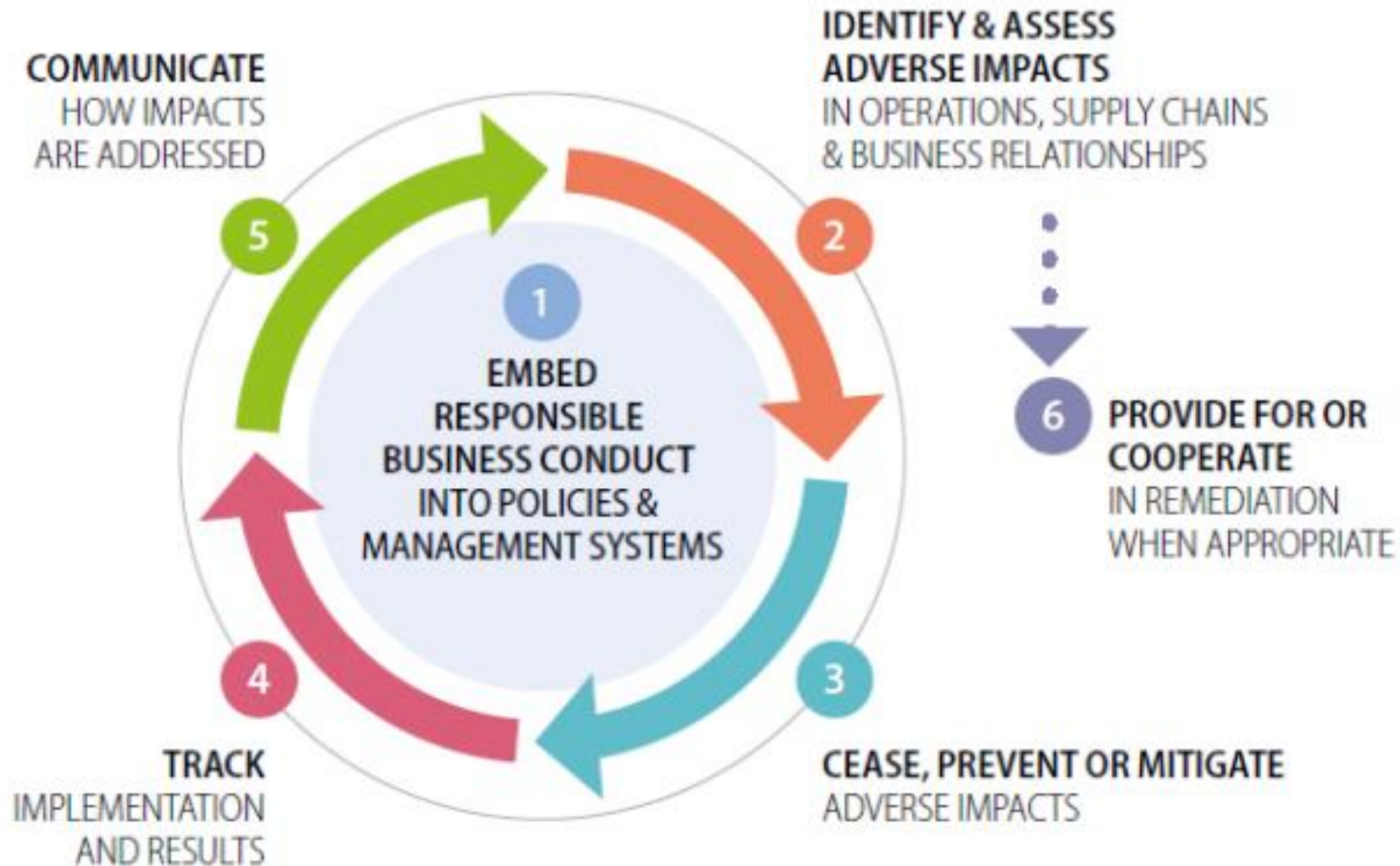


**Knowledge
hub**

CSDDD, CSRD, EUDR, Conflict Minerals Regulation, Battery Regulation, FLR, Taxonomy, SFDR



Due Diligence Process Multinationals - OECD





FLR support for SMEs

- Information services (e.g. webinar, factsheet, flowchart)
- Events with companies and trade associations
- Point of contact for companies seeking guidance and support

Tools and training



Our learning journey:

<https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/training/en-en-tools>

Online course

RBC and due diligence basics, in EN + NL



RBC regulatory check

8 EU Laws, which are (in)directly applicable?



RBC Assessment

What is my company's RBC maturity + action points



RBC Guidance Document

Practical guidance PDF on each of the 6 steps



Live training and webinars



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Introduction to RBC and due diligence

Basic training for companies to get started with Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) and due diligence.

This training is provided by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency's [RBC Helpdesk](#).

Get started >

[NL](#) | [EN](#)

Photo credits: Simone D. McCourtie / World Bank



Where to find us

Website: www.rvo.nl/mvosteunpunt

- English: <https://english.rvo.nl/topics/about-rbc-and-due-diligence>

Email: mvosteunpunt@rvo.nl





Thank you!