



Module: Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Introduction

Brief explanation:

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) refers to the continuous application of preventive environmental strategies towards processes, products and services in order to increase the efficiency with which they use materials, water and energy, to improve their productivity and, thus their competitiveness.

The RECP approach aims to facilitate an industry shift towards a Circular Economy that promotes waste prevention as a priority and prepares enterprises to reuse or valorise residues by reintroducing remainders into the product value chains.

RECP methodologies look at enhancing the means to meet human needs while respecting the ecological carrying capacity of the earth by producing more wellbeing with less material consumption.

Through the module “Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)”, the basic types of knowledge get closer together: Getting to know the benefits due to a certain entity would decide on usage of the concept RECP, its methodology, basic elements, phases of implementation etc.

The module itself contains:

- Article;
- Lesson plans;
- Powerpoint presentations through the method of lecturing of the educators which is simplified and illustrated with photographs, graphs, and similar;
- Videos - through which in an interactive way are presented the significant information for the given topic;
- Activities and tools intended for a school environment, training spaces, however online platform environment as well;
- Exercises as quizzes in regards to checking the engaged knowledge;
- Suggestion resources for further research;

If you want to get acquainted with the topic, but not to do an activity or exercise, you can follow the presentation and/or watch the videos.

If you want to create an activity, the video and the presentation are incorporated in it, due to the simpler implementation and approximation of the topic.



You can realize the module if you are an educator with your target groups, but also individually if you are interested in the topic, by having a special section in the description of activities "For the participant/interested persons".

Overall aim of module:

The goal of the module is to educate the youth regarding the following points:

- ❖ Getting to know the term RECP;
- ❖ Reasons why the RECP concept can be evaluated as a self-help mechanism;
- ❖ Motivations and benefits for which a certain entity would decide to implement the RECP concept;
- ❖ Elements of the concept of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production; Phases and steps of implementation of the concept for RECP;
- ❖ Different key indicators of performance and tools of implementation of the RECP concept.

At the same time, through implementation of the activities within the module:

- ❖ Encouragement for the entrepreneurship spirit;
- ❖ Self-evaluation of daily habits related to impact to the environment
- ❖ Encouragement of the research potential in youths, their evaluation for development of the concept of efficiency regarding resources and cleaner production in a certain company, through studies for the same.
- ❖ Building an image by establishing a social responsibility policy that will be publicly available emphasizing the application of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production.

Why is it important for the community?

The production of industrial materials and products begins with the extraction of natural resources from the environment. The availability of these resources is vital for the sustained functioning of both industrialized and developing societies.

But increased resource use per capita in industrial countries and global population growth has led to increasing pressure on worldwide natural resources including air and water, arable land, and raw materials.

The RECP concept is "Continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, products and service to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and environment". It specifically works to advance three aspects: Production efficiency through improved productive use of natural resources by enterprises; Environmental conservation through minimization of the impact on nature by enterprises; Human development through reduction of risks to people and communities from enterprises and supporting their development.

Having in mind the above, the strategy that is promoted through the concept of RECP is the so-called (win-win) strategy of mutual victory because it simultaneously takes care of the



environment, the workers who are part of the production process and the end consumers, while at the same time improving production efficiency, profitability and competitiveness.

Key dimensions/key words of the module:

- Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production;
- 3Rs;
- Company reputation;
- Input materials;
- Quality Assessment and Quality Control;
- Case study;
- Good practices in cleaner production;
- Policy for social responsibility;
- Good image of the enterprise;

The interplay between social entrepreneurship, with increasing awareness on environmental and climate matters

The application of RECP emphasizes the importance of and awareness of environmental protection, but without ignoring the economic and production aspects within the entity (company, enterprise, public services, etc.) under consideration.

Moreover, the quality of products and services provided by the entity under consideration shouldn't have been reduced due to the application of RECP. Namely, RECP promotes that it is possible to apply the principles of animal protection environment while respecting the economic aspects/benefits.

Therefore, the net effect of applying the RECP concept is enabling greater competitiveness and greater access to the international market, especially when it comes to entities that are situated in developing countries or in economies in transition.

An additional benefit is the change in the way of thinking, behaviour, discipline, because the concept of RECP requires a change of habits and behaviour, practicing reasonable management in terms of environmental protection and promotion of changing technologies in the direction of the application of the most modern available technologies and techniques. Experiences from many companies show that Cleaner Production initiatives result in both environmental improvements and better economic performance.

However, this should be recognised by the management of the company, social enterprise etc.