

United Nations Environment Programme Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production Mediterranean Action Plan

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First Meeting of CP/RAC National
Focal Points (NFP/CP/RAC)

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NETWORK OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS



Autonomous Government of Catalonia
Ministry of the Environment
Centre for Cleaner Production Initiatives



UNEP



Ministry of the Environment
Spain

NETWORK OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

Víctor Macià, Director Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF THE NETWORK

7.1 Structure and operation

To attain the best transfer of information, and to avoid the waste of efforts, the most appropriate structure is deemed to be a network, built around a central "hub" (the RAC/CP).

The functions of the RAC/CP shall be to coordinate, distribute information, promote, guide and encourage action taken at a local level.

Thus the experience of the individual NFP's will be shared, optimizing both efforts and resources.

To ensure the greater effectiveness of the network, the bilateral contacts established between the RAC/CP and the NFP's should be supplemented by a mechanism for the globalization and consolidation of the flow of subjects/proposals generated and for the consensual presentation of the latter to the appropriate bodies of the MAP.

Thus the structure would be completed with the establishment of a RAC/CP-NFP's meeting (in the same way as other RAC's) empowered to achieve the following:

- to agree on proposals of regional interest within the framework of MAP priorities.
- to inform on any action carried out.
- to analyse the status of clean production in the region.

The capacity for mutual knowledge and joint action must be supplemented by more permanent information mechanisms, designed to inform all of the NFP's of the activities of the network, (a newsletter could prove to be an ideal vehicle).

7.2 Goals

To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the network a dynamic link must be set up between the NFP'S and the RAC/CP, permitting an improved, swifter flow of information.

More specifically, the goals of the network shall be:

- A) To disseminate the concept of clean production and the techniques and practices required for the achievement thereof, and information on the advantages clean production offers in terms of the global improvement of the productive sectors.

- B) To foster initiatives and programmes that have a holistic approach to the environment, permitting the pollution generated by the countries of the Mediterranean Basin to be reduced, and to collaborate on the start-up of such initiatives and programmes.
- C) To act as a meeting point for all the different institutions, agencies, companies and NGO's interested in those processes, techniques and practices that will enable us to create cleaner, more environmentally friendly production systems.
- D) To facilitate multi-lateral contact and access to know-how and experience between the different NFP's, to help dynamize and accelerate the introduction of clean production techniques and practices.
- E) To collaborate with the training of the professionals and institutions that have to promote the technology in the different countries of the region, and help to provide them with access to such technology.
- F) To facilitate the transfer of technology, know-how and experience between the different countries of the region.

CLEANER PRODUCTION FOCAL POINTS NETWORK: A PROPOSAL FOR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DISCUSSION

Victor Macià, Director Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

Nothing as far from our thoughts than trying to direct the sense into which the future collaboration among the National Focal Points and the CP/RAC has to be oriented.

If we try to transpose the same methodology used in a pollution prevention programme, CP/RAC would propose to go through the following steps:

1. Measuring and identifying opportunities

In our case is to put together the present situation of pollution prevention, starting from the **concept** we use in each of our countries, the **legal situation** (enforcement degree, ...), **industrial sectors** (and its distribution, size and technological level) **monitoring and economic instruments, technological level, experts level, public awareness, etc.**

In that sense and to gain time, the report we asked for and that most of you have kindly submitted to this meeting, is a tool that surely will put in clear the different structural lacks we have in front of us.

In that first step we have to be able to **identify common priorities** (sectors, effluents, substances, ...) that have to be **part of the MAP priorities**. Protocols and reports of the Contracting Parties meetings, as well as the MCSD recommendations, draw the line to follow and our suggestions to the Coordinating Unit has to take into consideration this basic principle.

2. Looking for alternatives

From our point of view, the word "alternatives" covers a wide set of meanings. Just to start a list of items to be completed, we can put into them:

- Finding a common interpretation of what is and what is not "cleaner production".
- Recommendations to complete legal framework, to set instruments to promote cleaner production, to reach and convince industries, etc.
- Identification of appropriate technologies and practices (avoiding the transfer of obsolete ones) and proposing recommendations to promote its transfer.
- Identification and evaluation of activities being developed in each one of our countries: fields, expertise, results, transfer capabilities,

- Proposals on capacity building projects (courses, seminars, ...) and campaigns addressed to industries and decision-makers to demonstrate the real cost savings when using appropriate technologies.
- Demo-projects.
- Permanent interchange of information between NFPs to benefit of our common experience.

But, if CP/RAC was asked about a priority target (that can be formed by several tasks), we should **priorities the development of autochthonous cleaner production experts**. Without them, all other measures and recommendations will not go far away from public declarations or, what is worst, technological and procedural changes will be inefficient, fragile and suppliers-dependent.

3. Feasibilities

Just two words. First one is that technical recommendations and projects must have a clear "Mediterranean" flavour. That is, taking into account our geographic, social and economic characteristics.

Second one. Those projects need financial support that most of times will be beyond our possibilities. International institutions have placed important amounts of funding under the "Mediterranean" label.

The presence in this meeting of European Union and MAP Coordinating Unit, shall be the path to obtain, from international donors, the needed founding for projects suggested from us and approved by the Contracting Parties.

4. Implementation

Depending on different circumstances, we can assume that not all the ideas that sure will issue from our network will be implemented simultaneously in all the Basin. The follow-up of all the experiences will definitively benefit all the other countries and one of the roles of the CP/RAC can be to follow the different experiences and putting in common the results.

In this sense, the new publication of Fact sheets called *Med Clean* (presented in this meeting) will help on the transfer of information and experiences with concreted examples implemented by the Mediterranean companies.

5. Complementary actions (Follow-up and evaluation)

MAP, MCSD, the other RACs can and surely will benefit of the creation of our network as a way to check the real situation and needs of the Region.

**REPORT ON CLEANER PRODUCTION IN CYPRUS
(EXPECTATIONS, PRIORITIES, METHODOLOGIES)**

Costas Papastavros, Environment Officer, Environment Service

It is expected that a faster collection and dissemination of information and expertise of cleaner production practices will be achieved in this network, particularly regarding appropriate technology for SME's.

Priorities of action taken into account are the public health and nuisance effects, effects on tourism, and where water resources are threatened.

The methodology to spread cleaner production concepts consists of various steps, tools and practices. Some of them are the following:

- Strict enforcement of the rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment procedures.
- Providing incentives to industries to apply cleaner production through the Institute of Technology and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.
- Compels industries to consider seriously alternative technologies.
- Terms imposed by the Town Planning Authorities.
- Emission and discharge limits in the receiver (air and water) etc.

CLEANER PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT: AN AGENDA FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

Ahmed Hamza, Ph.D. Senior Technical Advisor, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

While recognizing that industrialization is vital for sustainable development in Egypt, more emphasis should be placed on ensuring environmental-soundness of the manufacturing facilities. This can be achieved by employing cleaner technology, conservation of resources and abatement of pollution at source. The following issues should be addressed within the framework of a national strategy on industrial environmental management :

While incentives are offered to encourage private investment, such incentives have yet to incorporate protection measures to control industrial emissions within the context of the Egyptian Environmental Action Plan. Creation of an environmental management unit within the institutional framework of the regional EEAA's will provide a mechanism for addressing pollution problems and environmental concerns at the local level.

There is a need to influence the options for new industrial activities , and to make use of proper experience and judgment for identify likely problems and proper mitigation measures for pollution control, particularly in hazard generating industries. The environmental impact assessment may produce such a prospect for proper environmental planning during the extension of existing industries and the development of new ones.

Wastes are produced by almost all industrial production facilities, but some are most likely to produce hazardous constituents requiring special treatment. Wastes from tanning, metal plating and finishing, printing, chemical formulations, textile finishing, pulp and paper manufacturing, and metallurgical industries, particular attention for proper containment of their hazardous wastes. A cradle-to-grave policy should be adopted for proper management of hazardous wastes.

A review of the existing economic incentives to investors is needed, to ensure their compatibility with the goals of conservation of resources and prevention of pollution; incentives that conflict with these goals should be removed. A priority action is to adopt and implement the polluter pays principle, which reflects the price of environmental damage arising from pollution in the production costs. A proper guidelines for environmental audit of the existing industrial facilities should be developed and implemented by EEAA to ensure the sustainability of industrial development.

A system for information services, probably through the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production Mediterranean Action Plan, may act as a delivery mechanism for information concerning legislation, emission standards, cleaner technology, waste minimization and other relevant issues influencing decisions regarding industrial environmental management. A national waste exchange system should be established based on uniform classification of wastes. The system could operate through a clearing house to link potentially interested users with generators of wastes. The information might include characterization, amounts and suggested reuses of wastes. The level of training on pollution prevention among industry personnel has to be strengthened.

Development of human resources for effective pollution control should receive priority. On-the-job workshops for the workers, and group seminars for industrial managers are bound to strengthen environmental skills, and hence enhance responsiveness to pollution control initiatives and create specialized cadre for management of environment in the manufacturing facilities.

Public awareness can be enhanced through increased flow of information from industry and government to the public, and vice versa. Better understanding of basic environmental concepts, and rational utilization of resources can be achieved when the public is given the opportunity to participate in policy decisions and in expressing their views concerning means of improving delivery of services.

Facts about environmental quality and its links to sustainable development should be disseminated in a proper and simple manner through mass-media. Developing close relations with NGO's, local officials, and industrialists in the country, can help in identifying environmental problems, setting action priorities, and building political support for environment protection. The leaders in local governments and industry should be the prime targets for an industrial environmental awareness programs.

The private sector, represents a main instrument that affect environment and development in Egypt, both positively and negatively. Private investments should be encouraged to play a major role in transfer and application of new industrial environmental activities, particularly in the fields of pollution abatement, hazardous waste management, and materials recycling.

Pollution control legislation should consider cost of pollution prevention technology, and the relation between emission loads and the assimilative capacity of the environment. Legislation should be drawn up and enforced in such a way that if violations occur, effective sanctions can be imposed.

There is a need to link enforcement with evolving environmental jurisdiction through implementing an integrated monitoring scheme which involves liquid and gaseous emissions, solids and hazardous wastes, noise and the work environment. The institution of effective monitoring program in support o environmental enforcement will reflect the interest in maintaining a clean environment for the benefit of workers and the surrounding communities.

Despite the increased interest in cleaner technology, its wide-scale application has yet to benefit from the new and proven technologies introduced in the industrialized countries. This is attributed to inadequacy of information on new waste minimization technologies, management resistance to employ what they view as cumbersome changes and lack of policy measures conducive to investment in such technologies.

CLEANER PRODUCTION NETWORK EXPECTATIONS

Anton Pizzuto, Director Cleaner Technology Centre, Malta

The network can be instrumental in tangibly supporting the efforts at Cleaner Production adoption in countries whose economies are in transition (like Malta) by providing one or more of the following:

- a) Financial Assistance to approved Cleaner Production processes in the form of grants and low-interest loans.
- b) Expertise in the form of technical assistance to help industry review the processes used and identify the origin of waste, operational problems associated with processes and areas where improvements can be made.
- c) Technology transfer mechanisms which are affordable to the industries and countries which need them.
- d) Training for decision makers in both government and industry in such areas as environmental impact assessment, life cycle analysis, energy audits etc. These modern tools to environmental management are being increasingly used to assist decision-makers to orientate production and consumption patterns towards environmentally improved products.
- e) Support capacity building activities such as, joint industry demonstration projects which hopefully would have a multiplier effect.

Having looked closely at the local situation it is concluded that any planned strategy for environmental protection through the adoption of Cleaner Production needs to have the following components:

- 1) Organisational and Legal Component This will provide a unified front for environmental protection and also act as a deterrent to companies contemplating activities which are intentionally or otherwise polluting.
- 2) Enforcement and liability This component will provide funds or means to clean up and return the environment to its original state as far as possible. A strong and effective enforcement unit attached to the Environment Protection Department is imperative for this component to have any effect.
- 3) Voluntary and mandatory targets These targets are important to set goals and objectives. Progressive industry would not be adverse to supplementing mandatory targets set by government with its own voluntary ones. This is already being practised by some manufacturing industries in Malta where sewer discharge limits have been set.

4) Related use of economic incentives The economic incentives are important to meet the goals set in 3) above.

5) Public education This is a priority component of any strategic plan and must be intense and sustained over a relatively long period. The duration of this campaign must be long enough to ensure that the concept is well understood and accepted. Even then, re-enforcing is a necessary requisite to make sure that a culture, amenable to Cleaner Production adoption, has been built among the general public and industrialists alike.

6) Partnership between Industry/Academia/Govt./Unions/NGO's Involvement of all strata of society to ensure a high degree of success is a must. This formula of involving all the social partners in challenges of common interest has worked in other areas and there is no reason to believe that it would not work in promoting the adoption of Cleaner Production.

Needless to say the network would be an ideal vehicle for possibly a common strategy applicable to countries around the Mediterranean. The network would also serve as a clearing house for the dissemination of experiences and technology transfer among the members.

EXPECTATION OF LEBANON ON THE CLEANER PRODUCTION

Olfat Handam, Ministry of the Environment, Lebanese Republic

In order to solve the pollution problems, the MoE, with the aid of other institutions, is trying to monitor existing known pollution problems and help industry adopt pollution control technologies.

The suggested National Industrial Waste Management plan although still under review, will probably be implemented as follows:

Stage 1 covering a period of 0-12 months:

During this period, all the basic laws or national legislative procedures that will powerfully and legally allow the Ministry of Environment to enact in regard to the approved National plan will be ratified by the Lebanese Parliament and government.

Stage 2 covering a period of 1-3 years:

During this period, the organization of the agency in the Ministry of Environment, which will be assigned the authority to administer the approved National Plan, will be fully completed, all personnel and technical staff hired and trained, permitting procedure initiated, relevant decrees processed, and field works underway.

Stage 3 covering a period of 3- 6 years:

During this period, the laboratory facilities would be completed, all necessary decrees reviewed and issued, performance of that agency evaluated and strengthened, and data base collected and permitting procedures continued.

Stage 4 covering a period of 6- 10 years:

During this period, the environmental legislation will be reviewed and updated, all permits issued, all rivers classified, and a complete data bank for all industrial zones; industries; and their industrial wastes fully established.