

UNIDO CP PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL : 10 YEARS NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

Following the adoption of Cleaner Production as an effective means to reach Sustainable Industrial Development during the Conference in Rio in 1992, UNIDO decided to launch its worldwide Cleaner Production Programme (CP Programme). The UNIDO CP programme originated on the need to test and put into practice the theoretical concept of Cleaner Production and to objectively assess the potentials for its practical application. The final objective of the programme was and still is to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of industries in developing countries and transition economies through the application of cleaner production and the diffusion of Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST), and the incorporation of the concept in the national environmental legislations.

The history of the CP programme can be divided in 3 conceptual stages:

Phase 1 (from 1994 to 1996): Promotion and testing of the Cleaner Production concept

The development of the programme started immediately after the Rio Conference. Two years later, the first National Cleaner Production Centres were established in different continents, specifically selecting countries of varying culture, economic and social context, enabling a comprehensive testing field. The Centres established during this phase were: China and India in Asia, Mexico and Brazil in Latin America, Zimbabwe and Tanzania in Africa and Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary in Eastern Europe respectively.

The launching event of the programme was the Second Annual Meeting, which took place in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, from the 25th to the 30th November 1996.

Phase 2 (from 1997 to 2002): Development of the concept

From the beginning, the programme has been based on a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach, aiming at involving the different levels of industry, government, academia and the financial sector. Through their cooperation with these important stakeholders, the National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) and Programmes (NCPs) foster the establishment of national CP networks that promote the concept in the respective countries and ensure its adjustment to the local conditions. NCPCs and NCPs implement the technical cooperation programmes through five core sets of activities: CP in-plant assessments, capacity building, EST transfer and investment promotion, information dissemination and policy assessment. All these activities are interrelated and strongly support each other. They contribute to the productivity increase and competitiveness of the selected and priority industrial sectors in the host countries.

After having proved that the concept of Cleaner Production could be applied with adaptations to the different geographical contexts, the second stage focused on the expansion of the network: an expansion, which did not only relate to the geographical coverage of the programme, but also included an expansion of the sectors addressed, the donors involved, the networking activities, the inclusion of new services (ISO 14000, waste management), and an increased focus on investment promotion and technology transfer.

The second phase was the most vivid period of the programme, where the concepts, which are still demonstrating their effectiveness, were initially conceived.

The events in the CP programme, which characterized this second stage, were the Annual Meetings in 1999 and in 2001, where Switzerland and Austria expanded their support to the programme and at which point the first Market Place activity was included in the agenda with the ITPO Network. The presence of the Director General during the Annual Meeting 2001 gave further momentum to the programme.

Phase 3 (after 2002): maturity of the concept.

In order to increase the impact of the UNIDO CP programme, the developments initiated in phase two

were consolidated and organized in a coherent manner during the years 2002 and 2003.

The framework for this consolidation was provided by the **United Nations Millennium Declaration**, which encourages the entire UN system to work coherently together towards the creation of “an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty”. It was also supported by the **Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development**, which emphasizes the importance of cleaner production and eco-efficiency on the way towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The “International Workshop on fostering the role of UNIDO's CP Programmes in developing joint cooperation in Investment Promotion, Multilateral Environmental Protocols and Cleaner Production at national level”, which took place in Costa Rica from 23 to 28 of September 2002, provides a good example of this emerging trend, while its formalization was achieved by the elaboration of **UNIDO's holistic and sectoral Cleaner Production strategy**.

Together with the **Mayrhofen Cleaner Production Programme Declaration**, which was adopted on 9 May 2003 by the participants to the Seventh UNIDO/UNEP NCPC Annual Meeting, UNIDO's CP strategy forms the basis of the **UNIDO CP Programme Business Plan 2003-2005**.

The Business Plan defines the following **vision, mission and strategic objectives** for the programme:

To be the worldwide leading institution for the design and establishing of NCPCs and NCPPs as national centres and programmes of excellence for CP and EST in their respective countries.

Vision of the UNIDO CP Programme

Assist the national industries in improving their productivity and competitiveness to facilitate the access to new and more demanding markets through the diffusion of quality and productivity enhancing ESTs, following a holistic and sectoral CP approach.

Mission of the UNIDO CP Programme

- Strengthen the network of NCPCs and NCPPs and their capacity to promote **the transfer and diffusion of ESTs**, as well as helping in the establishment of mechanisms to bring together suppliers and requesters of ESTs. Promotion of ESTs will go hand-in-hand with the stronger sectoral approach of the programme as described in UNIDO's CP strategy;
- Foster **international business cooperation and investments in ESTs**, building links with UNIDO's network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices and UNEP CP financing mechanisms, facilitating the creation and the promotion of “Green” Credit Lines and fostering business cooperation with enterprises wishing to invest in ESTs;
- Further increase the **integration between CP and other tools** that foster sustainable development and the overcoming of environmentally and social-related barriers to market access (e.g. life cycle assessment, eco-design, social and environmental accountability and reporting);
- Promote the NCPCs and NCPPs as reliable partners in the implementation of preventive projects required by, and funded through **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**, particularly the Stockholm Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, the Basel Convention and projects funded under the umbrella of GEF;
- Foster and establish **regional networking** to maximize the synergies between NCPCs and NCPPs in the exchange of information, experience and expertise;
- Increase the **awareness creation on the benefits of CP to other countries** and assist them to establish and operate new NCPCs or NCPPs.

Strategic objectives of the UNIDO CP Programme

The current activities demonstrate that the initial concepts of the first two stages were solid and still bear significant potential for further expansion. It is characterized, among others, by the evolution of the enhancement of EST transfer and the cooperation with UNIDO's investment promotion group from the

conceptual level to its stage of implementation. In the same way, the application of the holistic and sectoral approach to the waste management projects and to the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, with the result of expanding the portfolio of services of the centres. This allows them to gain more visibility in the national market and supports their evolution towards institutional and financial sustainability.

In order to avoid the risk of stagnation in the Programme, which has until now proved successful in 31 countries, all the stakeholders are working on the challenge of identifying the new roles, capacities, services and approaches for the future. The survival and the success of the programme will depend upon its continuous adaptation to the requests of the market and the needs of the individual countries.

Selected examples of success stories achieved by the NCPCs and NCPPs can be found in the following folders:

Promoting the diffusion of Environmentally Sound Technologies – Selected success stories:

- 1. Technology assessments.**
- 2. Technology transfer and diffusion.**
- 3. Introducing new products and processes.**