

Resource Efficiency

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Developed countries have enjoyed many decades of growth based on intensive use of resources. But today they face the dual challenge of stimulating growth needed to provide jobs, and of ensuring that the quality of this growth leads to a sustainable future. Our economy will thereby require a fundamental transformation in energy, industry, agriculture, fisheries, transport systems, and in producer and consumer behaviour within a generation¹. Learning **about** sustainability (accomodation) is not enough, anymore. Education **for** sustainability (reformation) of future generations, followed by **re-design** for education on sustainability principles (transformation) will be crucial for changing the habits and dematerializing the everyday life. From doing things better we have to do better things and, finally, start seeing things differently².

PREPARE (Preventive Environmental Approaches in Europe) Network has realized that new curricula and new course contents have to be introduced to the young generations at all levels of education. Starting with the Vocational Education and Training (VET) we decided to prepare an up-to-date course on Eco-Efficiency – a brand name for today's Resource Efficiency, using financial support of Leonardo da Vinci Partnership fund. Four sectors served as areas of major concern: building and construction, food, mobility, and energy related products. Lack of in-depth-competences and needs of the labour market presented motivation for the project.

An overview of national VET systems in Europe has been conducted. Definitions, objectives and key elements of eco-efficiency courses have been reviewed and studied. Sustainable resource and life-cycle management are to be used in order to reduce consumption of resources and their impact, provide higher quality products and services, improved by user additional services without interfering with the two former objectives. Vertical (2–5 years education) and horizontal structures (chapter selection) have been built into the course. Subject-specific competences have been defined.

The course contains the following chapters: Introduction, historical development, energy and material efficiencies, methods, management, and organizations. Practical and home work, textbooks, guides, manuals, PowerPoint Presentations are planned to be prepared in the near future.

1 European Commission, A Roadmap to Resource Efficient Europe, COM (2011) 571 final

2 S. Sterling, Higher education and sustainability, Kluwer, 2004