



Circular economy and life cycle management for sustainability

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EduZWACE - Education for zero waste and circular economy



Motivation

The transition to Circular Economy (CE) is an essential contribution to the EU efforts of developing a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive economy. Such a transition represents the opportunity to transform our economy, generate green jobs and build up sustainable competitive advantages for Europe. In Europe, we are using per person 16 tons per year of material, of which five become waste. Although waste management continues to improve, the EU economy still loses a significant fraction of potential 'secondary raw materials' in waste streams. The CE package, adopted by the Commission in 2015 and the new Action Plan of 2018 created an important momentum to support the transition towards a more CE in the EU. The transition to CE may only be successful if the required awareness, competences and skills are deeply embedded in the knowledge and daily routine of EU professionals and companies and from this perspective VET education for zero waste and circular economy is critical.

Objectives and results

This Strategic Partnership aims to fill a gap in Vocational Education and Training programmes by developing interdisciplinary skills on zero waste and circular economy (ZW&CE) needed for the jobs of the future that are tailor-made for the needs of the employers, particularly SMEs. EduZWaCE supports the exchange of good practices, enabling stakeholders to deepen and spread out knowledge, develop and reinforce networks, increase their capacity to operate at transnational level, and share and confront ideas, practices and methods. EduZWaCE specific objectives are:

- To develop partnerships amongst educators, businesses and stakeholders with the purpose of supporting VET learners in acquiring and developing skills and key competences in CE and foster employability;
- To facilitate the recognition and validation of competences for new jobs; and
- To make education in ZW&CE available for all, by setting the EduZWaCE as an Open Education Resource (OER).

The projects' results are organized in four Intellectual Outputs:

- The Knowledge Hub, an interactive resource centre, which gathers useful information for Vocational Education and Training teachers and professionals from companies who seek for knowledge and inspiration on zero waste and circular economy;
- A Knowledge Platform for e-learning, based on Moodle 2019;
- The ZW&CE on-line courses targeting two jobs profiles: the Manager, and the Technician/Worker, including EduZWaCE Skill Card Sets designed to enable further ECVET certification of the courses; and
- A ZW&CE diagnosis tool for companies.

Partnership



AKETH - Developmental Centre of Thessaly
(Project coordinator), Greece



ATMOTERM S.A., Poland



ENVIROS, Czech Republic



Global Reach, Greece



LNEG – National Laboratory of Energy and
Geology, Portugal



The National Centre for Sustainable
Production and Consumption (NCSPC),
Romania



EKO rast, Slovak Republic



StadtLABOR, Austria



PROSPEKTIKER, Spain



University of Maribor, Faculty of Chemistry
and Chemical Engineering, Slovenia

Webpage

www.eduzwace.eu

Project duration

24 months
01-10-2018 to 30-09-2020