

Environment Management and its Environmental Policy

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Abstract:

Environment management is last few years a part of business management. The article focuses on the environmental policy as a first step for environment protection. The increasingly limited environment resources demand managers of organisational systems to perform alternative measures in managing organisational systems. European Environmental Policy is becoming an important framework of entrepreneurial activity. Because in the context of increasingly stringent legislation, the development of economic policies and other measures that foster protection, and increased concern expressed by interested parties about environmental matters and sustainable development. Such management, which is based on ever changing customer's requests, has to be efficient and respond promptly to market needs and environment protection.

Key words: business, dialectic system, environment, management, policy, protection

1 Introduction

Owing to complexity of activity in conditions of free market economy the business is guided to excellence of products and to satisfaction of users. Moreover it is very important to consider legislative frames of enterprise activity, particularly adapting of Slovene legislation to legislation of EU, that becomes all more extensive. EU Environmental policy and legislative is only one view of adapting. The New Law about protection of environment of Republic of Slovenia places before entrepreneurs new demands and considerations of sustainable development. Projects of introduction of contemporary manners of management into little and middle-sized companies became urgent need because of challenges of free market economy. Different grips and organizational knowledge, treatments with environment, process attitudes to users, environmental management, etc. request instead of one-sidedness complete and more points of view of

business process. Environmental point of view of enterprise process is taking over important submission. Still particularly lately against accepting European legislation in Slovene enterprise practice. Against this permanently and incessantly modifying demand of users and normatively field of business demand lightning quick responding and adapting. The role and significance of environment protection is becoming ever more important in the competitive market. The task held by management is orientated towards changing the organisational culture, structure, business processes, and products. It is about a new approach in managing the organisation and environment resource planning in society.

The environment management is so the consequence of EU Environmental Policy, Slovene Environmental Policy and innovation's administration and processes in sense of consideration of dialectic system of viewpoint in the companies.

2 European Union Environmental Policy

European Union Environmental Policy followed these steps:

Date	Key Developments
1967	Council of Ministers adopts Directive 67/548/EEC on dangerous substances
1972	EC Heads of State and Government adopt formal environmental policy at a Paris Summit meeting, following Stockholm UN Environmental Conference
1972-1987	Despite lack of provision for EC environmental action in EC Treaty, more than 100 legal instruments are adopted.
1972-1976	First Community Environmental Action Programme addresses prevention and “polluter pays” principles as well as EIA and co-ordination of national policies.
1977-1981	Second Community Environmental Action Programme with heavy focus on waste issues.
1982-1986	Third Community Environmental Action Programme. Emphasis on integration of environmental issues into other areas e.a. transport, energy and agriculture.
1987	Single European Act (SEA) amends the EC Treaty and states the objective of achieving a “single market” by 1992. SEA explicitly mandates EC environmental action and the need to reconcile trade and environment. SEA also establishes “subsidiarity principle” i.e. actions should take place at the lowest regulatory level.
1987-1992	Fourth Community Environmental Action Programme with focus on air pollution, water quality, chemicals and nuclear safety.
1990	Maastricht Treaty on European Union adopted . EC changed to EU and Community authority in environmental policymaking is further expanded. Member States may be granted temporary derogations from EC environmental rules and/or financial assistance in implementing them.
1991-2000	Fifth Community Environmental Action Programme adopted “Towards Sustainability”. Close similarities to Agenda 21 developed at the 1992 Earth Summit. Focus on integrating environment into other policy areas, e.a. industry, energy, transport, agriculture and tourism. Actions target all

	environmental media (air, water, waste). Economic and fiscal instruments also proposed.
1993	European Environmental Agency (EEA) established.
1997	Treaty of Amsterdam – amends Maastricht Treaty and the Founding Treaties. Further expands environmental protection and sustainable development components.
2000-2001	Sixth Community Environmental Action Programme under development.

Table 1: EC Environmental Policy [1]

Organizational objectives, policies, and plans are not mutually exclusive components of the management process. They are highly interdependent and inseparable. One cannot effectively pursue objectives without first knowing what they are and what policy guidelines must be followed. The importance of clear and sound objectives cannot be overstated. As the old saying goes, “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will get you there’ [11]. The current position of a EU member/organization with regard to the environment can be established by means of an initial processes and management review. The initial review can cover the following:

- identification of legislative and regulatory requirements;
- identification of processes;
- identification of environmental aspects of its activities, products or services so as to determine those that have or can have significant environmental impacts and liabilities;
- evaluation of performance compared with relevant internal criteria, external standards, regulations, codes of practice and sets of principles and guidelines;
- existing business, processes, environmental management practices and procedures;
- identification of the existing policies and procedures dealing with procurement and contracting activities;
- feedback from investigation of previous incidents of non-compliance;
- opportunities for competitive advantage;
- the views of interested parties;
- functions or activities of other organizational systems that can enable or impede environmental performance [15].

3 Slovenia and its Progress in Accession

European community works on basis of overstate European law, which is base of all contracts signed in Maastricht and Amsterdam 1988/99. European law includes all laws as executive documents, which have with time occurred in EU. There are twenty thousand separate legislative acts. Slovenia will have to place them into its own state legal order in whole.

New economic issues dictate the redefining of economic interests in the wake of the recognition, that the natural environment is a very important key in Europe Association Agreements, which include Environmental Approximation Process:

- over 500 EC legislative vehicles in area of environment were adopted;
- of these, the European Commission has listed approximately 70 Directives and 21 Regulations as the so-called Environmental Acquis Communautaire, which the Associated Countries in Central and Eastern Europe must align with their national legislation and administrative practices in approximation process;
- approximation is the process of integrating EC law into national legal, regulatory, and administrative systems [1].

Key elements of approximation were:

Transposition	Adoption or change of national laws, regulations and procedures so that the requirements of the relevant EC law are fully incorporated into national legal order.
Implementation	Provision of new institutions and budgets necessary to carry out the new laws, regulations, etc.
Enforcement	Provision of the necessary controls and penalties to ensure that the law, regulations, etc., are being complied with fully and properly.

To transpose, implement, and enforce the EC body of environmental, health, and safety law were next obligations:

- understanding the “gaps” between the two systems and what must be done to bridge them;
- preparing CEEC “national environmental approximation programmes”, to bring laws, procedures, and institutions into alignment with the EU as a requirement of EU membership;
- preparing national framework legislation to provide structure for the detailed adoption and implementation of new environmental laws and procedural systems;
- implementing measures must be binding;
- estimating costs and time periods to come into compliance with EC legislation;
- identifying necessary investments to achieve substantive and procedural compliance with EC law, and
- continuing and accelerating the formal process of transposition, implementation, and enforcement [1].

Key documents with respect to EU Accession were The National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP) adopted in 1999 and setting objectives and priorities for the next ten years. The latest report of the European Commission on Slovenia’s progress towards accession was very positive. Slovenia has made significant progress with transposition of the environment acquis. However, more work remains to be done as regards implementation and enforcement of the acquis. The administrative capacity also requires reinforcement. This is particularly the case in the areas of waste, water and radiation protection.

Protection of environment is component part of foreign, economic and social policy, based upon principle of prevention and „producer pays“.[2] Essentially on field of protection of human rights is the right of residence in healthy environment and duty of protecting that environment for achievement of sustainable development.

Republic of Slovenia passed fundamental legal frame of administration with environment with law about protection of environment, This law is arranging protection of environment before burdening as fundamental condition for sustainable development and in this frame determines basic principles of protection of environment, measures of protection of environment, accompanying of condition of environment and of information about environment, economic and financial instruments of protection of environment, public services of protection of environment and other with protection of environment connected questions.

- understanding EC and Western environmental law approaches and tools and inadequacies of the former CEEC legal system;

4 Entrepreneur Environmental Policy

The environment protection and permanent development is a complex process, where the earlier events have more influence than the later one.

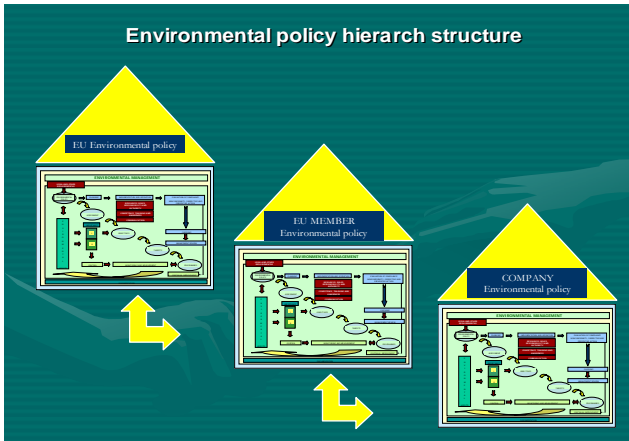


Figure1: Environmental policy hierarch structure

From here it originates the sense of activity planning of these, who administrate, who define the aims, who organize and so on. Experience show that the environment protection and permanent development as a part of entrepreneur's philosophy is not carried into effect enough. The business system is not isolated from the environment, but it is interweaved with other business systems, that's why the environment protection and permanent development with processes innovation are also results of social environment [2], which based on clearly policy and strategic management process.

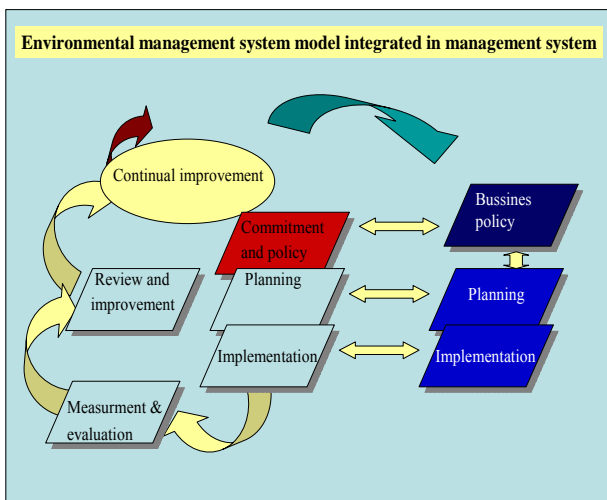


Figure 2: Environmental management system integrated with other management requirements

Figure 3 presents an approach to environmental management system integrated with other management requirements.

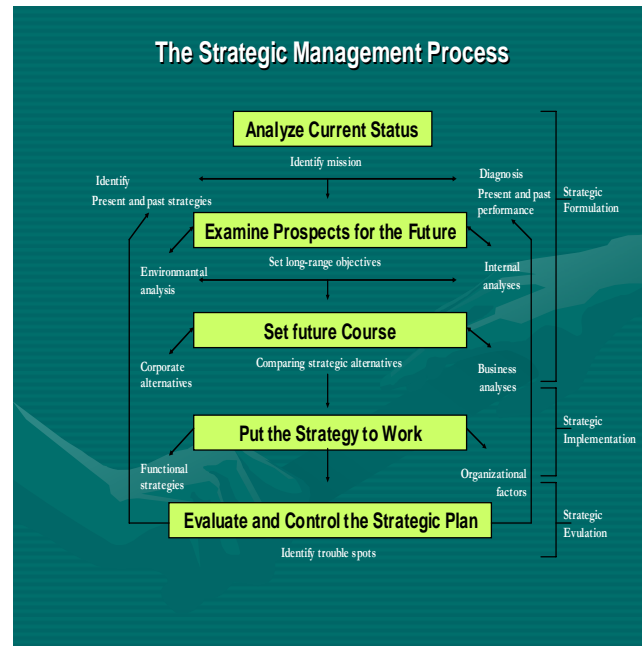


Figure3: The Strategic Management Process [11]

International economic practice as well as economic practice in Slovenia, has conformed to ISO 14001 (Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use), as the role of these standards is raising levels of environmental management in business. Top management shall define the organization's environmental policy and ensure that, within the defined scope of its environmental management system, it:

- is appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, product and services,
- includes a commitment to continual improvement and prevention of pollution,
- includes a commitment to comply with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes which relate to its environmental aspects,
- provides the framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets,
- is documented, implemented and maintained,
- is communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the organization, and
- is available to the public.

5 Conclusion

Environmental policy is a first step to environment protection. It is important to respect EC Environmental Policy. An Environmental Management System is contained in the Environmental Protection Act since several years. This system based on ISO 14001. A number of Slovenia companies are certified under ISO 14001. But the most important is that, the protection of the environment is not specifically addressed and everyone is responsible for balanced growth, stability and higher living standards.

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