

Enhancement of the Business Environment in the Southern Mediterranean



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Eco-Efficiency

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History



- The WBCSD first used the term eco-efficiency in 1991
- The concept established the link between environmental performance & economic benefits
- Stephan Schmidheiny & WBCSD took the concept worldwide thru a publication: Changing Course 1998
- The 1992 Earth Summit endorsed eco-efficiency as a means for companies to implement Agenda 21 & the term has become synonymous with a management philosophy geared towards sustainability



History



- 2004 First International Conference on Eco-efficiency (Leiden)
- 2006 2nd Second International Conference on Eco-Efficiency (Egmond aan Zee)
- 2010 The 3rd International Conference on Eco-Efficiency (Egmond aan Zee)



What is Eco-efficiency



- Eco-efficiency improves utilization of resources thru more efficient processes
- Optimizes the use of resources, reduces rate of depletion of resources
- Promotes competitiveness & innovation, while at the same time exercising greater responsibility for the environment



Basic preconditions in eco-efficiency analysis



- Customers benefit
- Entire life cycle
- Sustainability assessment
- Impact on health



Focus of eco-efficiency analysis



- Calculations of total cost from the perspective of the customer & entrepreneur
- Preparation of a life cycle analysis
- Impacts on health & the environment
- Identify risk potentials
- Identify relationship between ecology & economy
- Analysis of weaknesses
- Assessment of scenarios
- Sensitivity analysis
- Business options
- Inclusion of social dimension



Private sector engagement in public policy formulation



- Appreciation of the policy life cycle
- Achieve institutional buy-in
- Implement a more structured approach
- Address resource constraints
- Build trust between private sector and government



Constraints for SME development



Constraints for SME development in the MED region

- Poor incentives for entrepreneurship;
- High entry barriers for new enterprises;
- Restrictive market access;
- Lack of quality vocational and managerial skills to support SME growth;
- Rigid regulations favoring incumbents;
- High levels of economic informality and
- Limited access to finance due to weak creditor rights, underdeveloped collateral registries and weak bank competition



Thank you for your attention

Contact:

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