



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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**Abstract:** *One used Environment and influenced from time immemorial. For a long time this was seen as a conflict-relationship. Natural resources were available to people in virtually unlimited quantities and their regenerative abilities were even able to recover human intervention. One substantial turnover occurs with the growth of population and its growth needs. It turns out that while the need to grow indefinitely, natural resources and riches of the environment are increasingly limited, which in economic terms means that they become "rare". The economic law of scarcity says that wealth is scarce, when there are not enough resources to produce all the goods and services that people want to consume. Changes in recent years show that there is an explosive onslaught of environmental conditions. Businesses and organizations understand that it is preferable for them to avoid the consequences that result from their improper attitudes towards the environment. Strong business so wisely devote part of their attention on the introduction of an environmental management system, and are forced to undergo the difficult process of certification for its verification by a reputable company. Assume the obligation to minimize negative environmental impacts of their production on the environment, which must also review the materials, components and look for environmentally friendly manufacturers.*

**Keywords:** *environment, system reliability, environmental management system, the National Environmental Management Programme of the Slovak Republic*

### INTRODUCTION

In generally the attention focuses on major changes in the world that affect today's cycle of life as well as on economic, geopolitical, and social changes, and protection of the environment. Man and environment were in symbiosis from time immemorial. Despite the fact that man has always influenced and has always taken an advantage of the environment nowadays this relationship begins to be seen as conflict or negative one. The nature's resources were considered as unlimited for a long time and man have not dealt very much with nature recovery capabilities especially because the environment was copying with this fact without problems.

In recent decades, however, there is a significant change because the needs of mankind are growing unlimitedly and the treasures of the environment are becoming "rare". The population is growing markedly and the onslaught on the nature becomes dramatic. The protection of the environment becomes more challenging task and it is one of the strategic priorities of the society. The current global problems in the environment, such as the ecological crisis, global pollution of the biosphere and climate changes require constant solutions of the protection of biodiversity and biosphere in the world.

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## NEW APPROACH IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The creation of the system of environmental management is a dynamic process, through which it is possible to identify issues, to determine their priority, to organize and to distribute resources. The dynamics of the environment is reflected in the specific details of the management and the methods used, which is to be administered (Rózsa, 2008).

In order to achieve desired quality of the environment, there is no "the best one" system of environmental management, which should ensure that the management performance will be a success.

Different approaches are needed depending on political and economic conditions, historical and cultural circumstances, social objectives, types of natural resource to be gained control over, nature and powers of the managerial agencies and last but not least the quantity of available organisational resources.

Many business entities and organizations have already found out that the relationship between their activities and nature is very complex. To reduce ecological accidents, damages and damages to their reputation and image, it is more advantageous for them, also from economic as well as social view to devote their attention to the individual environmental programmes and approaches. While growing the companies try to standardise their processes and they can be characterized as a system of rigid structures, declared powers and responsibilities. To minimise costs, to increase their performance in transparent processes and flexible information system are considered as the basis of their success. Ensuring the success of the organisation by different types of managerial built-up systems is becoming more and more a commonplace in today's difficult economic situation. According to internationally accepted standards they include:

- Quality Management System – QMS
- Environmental Management System – EMS
- Occupation Health and Safety Management System – SMS.

Integrated systems are very efficient to create a management system which takes into account not only the quality of the products and services, but also the access to the environment and the occupational health and safety. In addition, the system approach ensures the orientation in the legislative requirements and their fulfilments; it reduces administrative demands and saves financial resources.

The integrated management system according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 is beneficial to introduce and to integrate into a single operational management system which becomes a functional tool for the management and ensure the prevention of all risks in the activities of the organization.

The individual system tools, such as planning, management of documentation, records, internal audits, corrective and preventive actions, and management review and non-compliance is common to all three standards. We can say that if the company has implemented the quality management system, then to implement an integrated management system will cost less than to start with the quality management system from the very beginning. The system tools are already created; the risks towards employees and surroundings must be already mapped and covered by law. Then there is an outstanding part to map out the risks to the environment and to integrate all the areas into a single functional management system and to factor it in the company's processes (Přidavková, 2008).

The companies are currently changing their reactive attitude gradually, even under the pressure of the society and the public, to the proactive one. Until now, the reactive attitude has been characterized by respecting law under the threat of financial penalties. The new proactive approach means a preventive and a reconstruction approach. It can be summed up in three lines (Jech, 2007):

- managing the creation of waste and pollution – allows direct quantifying of economic savings,
- managing the occupational health and safety protection – it is based on compliance with legislation, prevention and building up the reputation of the company,
- managing quality – quality in the broader sense, what companies and organizations prefer as a competitive advantage.

## **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION IN THE SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

At every stage of creating the system of environmental management, it is necessary to count with the input and participation of the public and with the use of the most available information. Collecting and using relevant and reliable information is an essential component of effective environmental management. At every stage of the management process different information are required and the information are used in different ways. But the stage with no information is a weak component of the chain and it is also a place where the processes will most likely collapse and where the programmes and plans will start to malfunction.

Increasing interest on the problems of the environment and the public awareness about the importance of the environment has led many governmental organisations, industrial enterprises and groups of citizens to understand that the system of environmental management and the process of its creation are not possible to create without effective communication. Reliable information is very important and necessary. The complex nature of environmental decisions in many countries has led to the realization that the simple communication of information is not sufficient. There have been adopted laws in the world, which require so far unprecedented access to information. As a result of this approach and the interest on unexpected events, the interest in the information by public has increased incredibly. The public wants to be informed about the environmental problems and on the releases of harmful substances into the environment and also wants to participate in the process of finding solutions (Hance, 2008).

Environmental managers are finding that there is a need to overcome one-way or passive communication and it is essential to count on the public participation in the decision-making process. There are many reasons for the public involvement in the process of decision-making on the environment. The public can be a valuable source of technical information about the problem and its alternative solutions. Not to mention the fact that the public have a right to be informed and have the right to engage actively in a dialogue about the threats to the nature as well as into deciding process how to minimize and to control the identified risks. In the case that the role of the public in the decision-making process is not clearly defined, conflict situations can be expected.

Various studies of public opinion shows that if the public is not informed and do not take part at the decision-making process on environmental management then public mistrust and distrust regarding the industrial enterprises willingness to recognize the environmental issue will grow (Santos – Edwards, 2000).

Risk communication and involvement of the public in the decision-making process are still relatively new terms. Public and private organizations also recognize that communication is a part of a developing culture. With the adoption of stricter legislation concerning the environment, the risk communication must become a part of the overall approach to the creation of the system of environmental management.

## **MOTIVATION OF ENTERPRISES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

It has been difficult to build up a positive approach of enterprises and companies to the process of creating a system of environmental management. There were no integrated systems of environmental management introduced in the Slovak Republic for a long time. The first environmental certification was started on the basis of the cooperation with foreign companies. The basic development trends in the world have been understood. These enterprises have had an ambition to trade their products at foreign markets. Strict rules are to be applied in the international trade and therefore the enterprises have to adapt them. They have recognized that environmental problems are related to their activities and therefore it is more convenient to reflect them systematically as part of a strategic, long-term, short-term, but also as a part of current managerial acts.

In the general business practice the calculation on cost regarding the fees, retributions and penalties for negative impacts on environment have undoubtedly played its role on the one hand, and the costs of the introduction of system measurement as cleaner technologies, pollution prevention, waste water treatment, etc. on the other hand (Čamrová, 2007).

The benefits that outweigh the costs include:

- better use of raw materials and technologies of used components,
- reducing operating costs,
- reduction of environmental accidents risk,
- optimization of processes and activities used and consequent reduction of negative impacts on the environment,
- reducing the likelihood of penalties for damaging the environment,
- improve the image of the company and the related strengthening of the position in the market,
- more favourable starting position for the implementation of environmental measures seeking to lower the environmental loads,
- trust increase of own employees,
- improved communication with the authorities of the state administration, self-government and public relations,
- reducing the insurance cost,
- easier access to financial credit resources.

## **ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The management of environmental protection in the Slovak Republic is connected to the economic instruments in order to apply to their structure stimulation and distribution function. In case of stimulation function the costs will be decreased by applying the environmental payments and, in case of a distribution function these payments are associated with the creation and use of financial resources. The application of this form of environmental payments is confronted with the possibilities of Slovak business entities. If the business entities do not have sufficient financial means, then the applied economic instruments perform only one function – distribution.

The fee for air pollution from large, medium and small pollution sources and the fee for handling of substances and products depleting ozone layer are applied in the field of the air protection in the Slovak Republic.

In the field of waste management there are charges for waste disposal at dumping sites and settling pit, local fees for municipal waste and minor construction waste, fees paid to the Recycling Fund, special purpose financial reserve, advance systems and contributions to the disposal of nuclear power plant waste and on manipulation of burnt out fuel and radioactive materials.

In the field of the protection of the soil there are fees for the withdrawal of agricultural land.

In the field of the water protection there are payments and charges for using the water.

In the field of the forests protection there are payments for using forest land for other purposes, compensation of damages caused on the forest and payments to the landowner as compensation for restriction of owners' rights.

In the field of protection of mineral wealth there are reimbursement for using the territory, payments for gained minerals, for storage of gases and liquids, and payments for surveying territory. The main purpose of this wide range of environmental taxes and charges is to reduce the consumption of harmful products, waste, emissions and noise.

The governmental regulatory procedures prevail in the environmental policy of the Slovak Republic. The implementation of EMS is till now promoted by the "National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Products' Labelling", "Environmental Management Programme" and "National Programme of Quality" (Romančíková, 2011).

## **CONCLUSION**

The environmental protection is currently perceived as a challenge. In accordance with strategy and priorities of state environmental policy it is necessary to create conditions for the implementation of voluntary activities of industrial enterprises, aimed at the protection of the environment and economic performance. The establishment of a national system EMAS allows to overcome non-tariff trade barriers and to create the assumptions for increase the competitiveness of Slovak products on the

EU and world markets. The task of the National environmental management programme is, inter alia, to promote business in the implementation and certification of the EMS according to international standards ISO 14000 within the conditions for access to the markets of the OECD and the WTO rules.

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