



Education and Culture

**Socrates**



## EUROPEAN UNION SOCRATES PROJECT

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### **ADULT LEARNING ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED TOPICS – II**

# Waste Prevention, Reduction, Re-use & Recycling

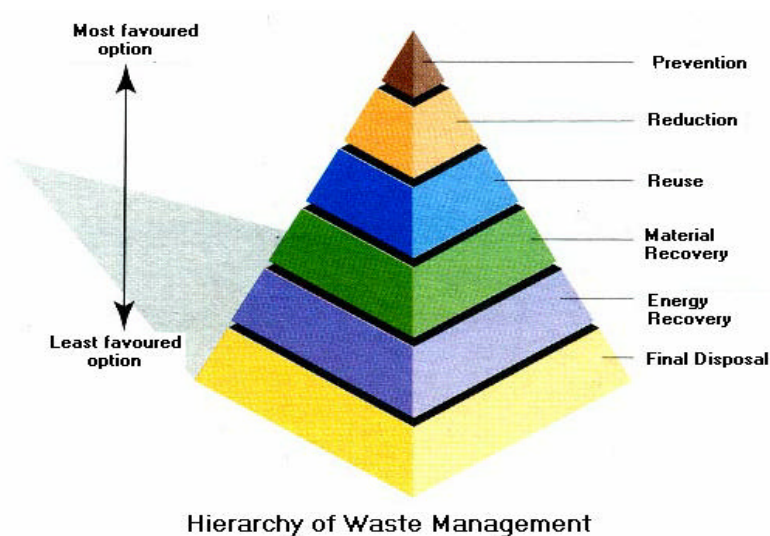
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## Approach / Summary / Introduction:

Waste is defined by the EU Waste Framework Directive (75/442/EEC) as: 'any substance or object, which the holder disposes of or is required to dispose of.' The European Community generates over 2 billion tones of waste each year, 200 million tones of which is municipal waste. Over the last six years the amount of waste generated increased by more than 10 per cent. The municipal waste stream itself is increasing as well. Waste mountains have become a danger not only to the environment but to human health as well.

Focusing on disposal options, however, is not a solution to the waste problem. The production of waste is closely tied to other issues, including consumption patterns, lifestyle, jobs and income levels, as well as a host of other socio-economic and cultural factors. Therefore, it is important to view waste management within the larger arena of socio-economic development and resource management. Effective waste management begins with prevention; what is not produced does not have to be disposed of.

The management of waste is a major environmental problem that has existed since human settlements began. Although EU waste policy has attempted to standardize waste management within the Community, (there are 20 directives on waste issues and 10 are under preparation), many factors have had a bearing on how, and how well, a Member State has implemented the directives. Culture, environmental setting, available technology, and the availability of funds and finances have large impacts on the implementation of waste policy.



In today's society everybody agrees that we have to reduce our waste, but who should be held responsible for achieving this? The European Union, national governments, local authorities? Or do we accept the responsibility ourselves, as individuals. Waste prevention by individuals may help to make waste management cheaper and more effective.

### Goals/aims:

- ? To raise awareness of waste prevention, sorting and recycling,
- ? To change consumption patterns and life style,
- ? To encourage citizens to choose environmentally friendly products that will facilitate sustainable use of resources, reduce waste and its associated negative impacts.

### Target group:

- ? Unemployed.
- ? Socially supported community members.

### List of subjects/content of the course:

#### 1. Introduction.

- ? Aims and objectives of the course.
- ? Definition of the waste.
- ? EU waste policy.
- ? Prevention of the waste by citizens themselves.

## 2. The Waste Management Principles.

- ? Hierarchy of waste management
- ? Prevention of waste
- ? The priorities for the use of waste

## 3. Waste disposal.

- ? Land fill.
- ? Periods of the decomposition of waste.
- ? Practical exercises. *Water pollution*

## 4. Sorting the waste at home.

- ? The importance of sorting at home.
- ? How can we contribute to the sorting of waste.
- ? The content of the waste container.
- ? Discussion. *How the sorting of waste at home is promoted in your region?*

## 5. Classification of the waste.

- ? Reusable waste.
- ? Packaging waste.
- ? Hazardous household waste
- ? Biodegradable waste
- ? Bulk waste
- ? Demolition and construction waste
- ? Practical exercises. *Packaging number per family member.*

## 6. Statistics on recycling waste during the last five years.

### 7. Discussion by the groups:

- ? “What has changed in recent years in sorting and recycling waste? Do I contribute to this process?”
- ? “My green rules”.

## 8. Conclusions

**Duration:** 3 academic hours: 1.5 hour of theory and 1.5 hours for practical exercises and discussions.

### Training methods:

Power point presentation of the theory

Discussions, dialogs, games, group work, problem solving, motivation during the practical sessions

Questions and answers by the lecturer and by the participants

### Evaluation:

Evaluation is essential at the end of the course. It should be used to review several aspects of the program. For example, organisation, teaching methods, trainer’s performance etc. Another aspect of evaluation should relate to the trainee’s performance and involvement itself. It is very important to have an opportunity to review the trainees after the course to find out if participants have received adequate motivation to prevent waste and how they will implement “green rules” in their everyday life. Evaluation is good tool for quality control, it is important that the high standards of such courses are not only maintained, but also gradually improved.

### Sources / References:

Waste Management publication WM6003 — Reviewed October 1, 1993

Eat what you can – recycle the rest, YTV, Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council, 1993

<http://www.epa.gov/gtrlakes/seahome/housewaste/src/open.htm>.

<http://www.vegweb.com/composting/how-to.shtml>.