

Dear All,

After one year of participation in the world's largest global corporate citizenship initiative, Synecs Consulting desires to ensure Global Compact of its unconditioned support in soundly promoting the ten universally accepted principles which foster the best international practices in human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Taking into consideration Synecs' profile and domains of activity, we acknowledge an accurate and proficient implementation of the principles provided for the environment section.

Our aim is to be seen by all the Global Compact's members as well as by our clients, partners and, also, by various national level actors (both public and private institutions, authorities etc.) as a trustworthy colleague in accomplishing the two main objectives of this initiative, namely:

1. Mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world
2. Catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In the last year, Synecs' activities were mainly focused on provision of environmental consulting services. Therefore, we can assert that we are always aware of the most recent international norms and standards, international and European legislation in force and almost every single idea / discussion / proposal related to the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system.

Synecs Consulting implements the Global Compact's principles provided for the environment section in the light of its vision on doing business simply but concisely, expressed by the statement: *"Thinking globally, executing locally"*.

Principle 7 of the Global Compact which stipulates that *"business should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges"* is outlined in the policy of our Sustainable Development Department by the following statement: *"We are strongly committed to the conservation, protection and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. We aim at*

facilitating and encouraging public awareness and participation in a global equitable partnership which has to meet both developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations. Our view on the environmental protection is grounded on the belief that it is an integral part of the global development process and it cannot be considered in isolation from it. The partnerships created with national and international, public or private bodies are considered as a powerful tool in the mitigation of environmental risks and in the establishing of a concise legislative framework which focuses on the liability aspects for the victims of pollution and other different environmental damages.”

The environmental policy of our company is built on the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The system foreseen for the Sustainable Development Department encompasses the elaboration, development and implementation of the following:

- **Environmental risk assessments** – By performing environmental risk assessments, Synecs Consulting offers to its Clients proactive approaches aimed at preventing and / or minimising (rather than remediating) environmental damage and loss.
- **Environmental impact assessments** – Practical description of the likely significant effects that a certain type of development targeted by a company might have on the environment and proposals of adequate mitigation measures.
- **Strategic environmental assessments** – The Consultant provides its Clients with a clear assessment of the potential effects that certain plans and programmes may exert upon the environment. A SEA, by definition, sets the necessary framework for the development of consent in projects that are to be applied for by either public or private actors.
- **Contaminated land assessments and remediation procedures and methods (hydrocarbon removal and recovery, removal of heavy metals, soil and ground water investigations etc.)** - By performing this type of activities, Synecs provides its Clients with extremely comprehensive environmental remediation services perfectly tailored in accordance with the size of the contracted project and, also, with the profile of the organization / company involved.

- **Elaboration of remediation proposals / strategies for cases of accidental pollution (Mould Remediation, Petroleum Remediation, Emergency Spill Response, Chemical Remediation, Loss Prevention)** - Provision of cutting – edge environmental solutions aimed at the proficiently preventing, eliminating and ameliorating the adverse effects and, eventually, at restoring the primary features of the affected natural environment.

A practical description of the undertaken activities focused on the implementation of the precautionary principle entails the below mentioned:

- Active and continuous communication with Synecs' Clients and Partners on the one hand and with Stakeholders and key international and national actors on the other hand which have, as a primary purpose, the identification of a better addressing manner of the problems posed by the environmental degradation and of a way of soundly raising the awareness at all levels upon the issue of accomplishing the sustainable development's goal without affecting world-wide the quality of life and the integrity of the environment.
- Every single project or contract in which Synecs was involved or still is has the environmental component at the forefront of its concerns. All environmentally related operations are always being performed in full compliance with the international norms and standards as well as with the international and EU legislation. Our commitment to the best international environmental practices and to both international and European regulatory systems recommends us as being one reliable partner in building a viable strategy especially designed for accomplishing a global welfare status based on the rational exploitation and consumption of resources as well as on the ensurance of a 'healthy and productive life' to the wide Society and a clean and safe environment for all those living in.
- Synecs' representatives are often invited to participate in conferences / congresses / forums held at national / regional / international level with the purpose of 'sharing knowledge' to other players seriously involved in promoting and supporting 'the green activities'.

- One distinctive aspect and relevant for the organizational culture of Synecs Consulting is represented by the provision of ‘in-house education’ for its employees whom are known as enthusiastic supporters of environmental friendly activities and whom are regarded as trustworthy allies in the fight for the attaining the sustainable development without hurting the environment and together with it, ourselves.

In terms of performance, the most relevant GRI indicator that can and must be used to best illustrate Synecs’ outcomes of undertaken activities is the SO5 which refers to ‘*public policy positions and participations in public policy development and lobbying*’ on the grounds that our consultancy services are being looked for and contracted by important national and international oil and gas industry actors. At national level, Synecs’ pool of experts is often invited to actively take part in both public and private consultation sessions on topics related to the environmental protection and sustainable development in the context of globalization.

Synecs Consulting transposes and adapts principle 8 of the Global Compact which advocates that “***businesses should undertake initiatives to promote a greater environmental responsibility***”, as stated in the following paragraph: “We strive to promote a greater environmental responsibility among great international and national polluters as well as among ourselves on the grounds that we desire that future generations can enjoy the diversity of both flora and fauna. By the undertaken actions, we try to bring at the every individual’s attention the below principles:

- The ‘*ecological wisdom*’ which foresees the harmonious and equilibrated relationship between the environmental components and the human activities.
- The ‘*social justice*’ which outlines the fact that justice must be achieved at all societal levels, without discrimination, a sine qua non condition for the decrease of disparities between the social classes and, also, a solid base for the implementation of sustainable development strategy.
- The ‘*pro-activity of both individuals and of communities*’ (where we shall include: NGOs, international / transnational organisations, national / regional / inter-regional public authorities, Governments, green / ecologist parties etc.) in the global initiative of promoting and supporting the UN Global Compact’s main objectives.

- *Clear commitment* on behalf of all international / transnational / national actors, regardless of their size, to the international principles and standards strongly connected and provided for the environmental protection actions / measures / programmes in order to efficiently enhance the ***global attitude and behaviour of protecting the environment from any potential dangers as if we are protecting ourselves from going through painful state.***

In terms of management system, Synecs's Department for Sustainable Development envisages the following:

- Promotion and implementation of internationally recognised codes of conduct and codes of practice aimed at the proficient enforcement of the 'environmental responsibility' principle within the performed operations. Being able to establish a 'green set of values' together with a concrete plan of action related to the achievement of the basic environmental responsibilities represents nowadays a great asset in the overall evaluation of any provider of environmental services.
- In the designed and implemented environmental strategies, , it can be easily noticed that Synecs is a reliable Guardian of the 'environmental responsibility principle' due to the fact that we always provide our Clients with solutions which are based on the respect for the below listed matters which represent in fact a transposition of the CERES Principles adapted to the company's profile's as well as to the objectives of the projects:
 - Protection of the biosphere
 - Sustainable use of natural resources
 - Reduction and disposal of wastes
 - Energy conservation
 - Risk reduction
 - Environmental restoration
 - Efficient communication process with both public & private entities

- Audits and Reports

The practical activities undertaken in this regard are the following:

- The introduction, certification and continuous improvement of the Environmental Management System in full compliance with the requirements of the Standard SR EN ISO 14001:2005 (ISO 14001:2004). The projects performed by Synecs Consulting in the field of environment protection, clean-up of contaminated lands, oil wastes recovery and impact studies and analysis, attest, once more, the importance attributed by Synecs Consulting to the current challenges which environment is being confronted with at a global level.
- In order to successfully tackle the nowadays environmental challenges such as pollution, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity, damage to ecosystems, harmful emissions and climate change, Synesc developed its programmes / policies / strategies in the sector of environmental consultancy starting from the integration of the elements foreseen by the 'triple bottom line' concept. Thus, by the solutions provided, Synecs pursues to successfully combine environmental and social quality with prosperity and profit which are considered to be key drivers in the redefinition and re-launch of the relationship between businesses and Society in the context of sustainable development.
- Synecs is constantly contracted for provision of training courses related to various environmental operations which range from provision of advisory services and assistance regarding the issuance of environmental permits / authorisations to the advancement of innovative ideas / proposals / action plans strongly connected to the raising of awareness on environmental concerns of primary importance to the planet and to its inhabitants in the dialogues held with stakeholders, partners, community members', international organizations, national regulatory bodies etc.

In terms of evaluation of the outcomes, the most illustrative GRI indicators are EN 26 – *initiatives to mitigate environmental impacts of products and services, and extent of impact mitigation* and SO 5 – *public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying*. The proofs which validate the above statement are, in the first instance, the environmental impacts assessments performed together with the suggested recommendations

which offer guidance to the Client with regard to the best manner of mitigating the potential risks / impacts that his actions / project may exert upon the environment.

Principle 9 of the Global Compact stipulates that ***“businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmental friendly technologies”*** and thus, Synecs Consulting declares and ensures one more time all the members of this global citizenship initiative of its continuous support in the global action aimed at enforcing the principles of the sustainable development in a ‘highly globalized era’. The main reasons for which the environmental-friendly technologies are preferred and look for more often are the following:

- are less polluting,
- use less resources, and
- recycle more wastes and products than their alternatives.

Since Synecs Consulting is based in one of the European Union’s Member States, it is essential to retrospect our policy, sustainable development actions and views to the EU’s requirements and aims provided for this matter. Therefore, we have completely assumed the overall objective of the EU’s Environmental Directorate presented in the Action Plan elaborated with the purpose of stimulating the use of environmental – friendly technologies in order to achieve step by step all the essential conditions for the sustainable development. The Action Plan’s objective advocates that all EU Member States will ***“harness their full potential to reduce pressures on our natural resources, improve the quality of life of European citizens and stimulate economic growth”***.

Needless to say, Synecs strives to promote and implement the primary scopes targeted by the EU, when issuing the above mentioned document:

- to remove the obstacles so as to tap the full potential of environmental technologies for protecting the environment while contributing to competitiveness and economic growth,
- to ensure that over the coming years the EU takes a leading role in developing and applying environmental technologies,
- to mobilise all stakeholders in support of these objectives,

in every programme / project / set of environmental operations undertaken.

Not only are the environmental – friendly technologies a need for achieving an attractive environment, but also they provide the framework of a competitive market necessary for the improvement of the economic sustainable growth.

Among the practical activities undertaken by Synecs in its quality of consultancy services provider, we consider necessary to list the following:

- promotion of sustainable production and consumption plans / proposals with focus on the value – added chains,
- fostering urban and regional technologies in the area of waste and water supply management and the use of environmental – friendly technologies for the suppliers in the infrastructure sector,
- promoting transnational incentives for eco-innovators,
- provision of eco-efficient solutions to environmental problems at different scales and protecting the cultural and natural heritage of the concerned areas,
- setting up environmental integrated management systems and developing environmental sound practices,
- advising on the use of certain forecasting methods and assessment tools for sustainable development analysis provided in accordance with the scales of observation (modelling links between economy / environment / society including market based instruments, externalities, thresholds), and
- development of a reliable knowledge base and methodologies for sustainability impact assessment on key issues such as land use and marine issues, urban development, social and economic tensions related to climate change.

Taking into consideration the fact that environmental problems go beyond national frontiers and require a coordinated approach at a pan-European and often at a global level, we strongly believe that by common, dedicated efforts, we can develop a highly qualitative environment by rationally and efficiently managing the natural resources and the heritage, by reducing the occurrence of risks and impacts on the environment.

At a global level, Synecs is committed to actively participate in the process of capacity building provided for the environmental policy making, implementation and the establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks and institutional structures sector.

The performances achieved by Synecs Consulting related to the implementation of this principle can be judged as in the previous principle case, by GRI indicators EN 26 - *initiatives to mitigate environmental impacts of products and services, and extent of impact mitigation* and SO 5 – *public policy positions and participation in public policy development and lobbying* on the basis that the acquired reputation and the created image at different communication and action levels recommend us now as a strong and competent partner in the struggle for a safer environment. Our efforts are always focused on providing our Clients regardless of their notoriety or size with real valuable solutions in terms of sustainable development.

All in all, we would like to quote the American environmental scientist, Dave Foreman, who once said that “*Our environmental problems originate in the hubris of imagining ourselves as the central nervous system or the brain of nature. We're not the brain - we are a cancer on nature*”, therefore we launch an invitation to all readers to deeply meditate on the quoted lines until the next session of the Global Compact’s communication of progress report.