

EREK - Efficiency is an Open Resource

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Abstract

The European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre (EREK) is the recent initiative of the European Commission in resource efficiency area. It was established to help European companies, especially SMEs, save energy, material and water costs. It provides businesses and SME intermediaries with helpful tools, information and business opportunities that show new and better ways to become resource efficient and benefit from circular economy business models.

In particular, EREK offers sector-specific resource efficiency self-assessment tools, knowledge base of improvement measures, case studies and technologies, database of national and regional support programmes and support providers, capacity-building and training workshops, and other activities.

EREK is an initiative of the European Commission implemented by a consortium of organisations including Technopolis Group (BE), VDI ZRE (DE), WRAP (UK), Motiva (FI), Enviros (CZ), WAAT and Arctik (BE).

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EREK – učinkovitost kot odprti vir

Povzetek (drugačen od povzetka v ang.)

EREK je evropski center za znanje o učinkovitosti virov: nova evropska pobuda, ki malim in srednje velikim podjetjem omogoča, da bolje izkoristijo svoje vire, proizvajajo manj odpadkov in povečajo svojo splošno produktivnost in konkurenčnost. EREK preko svoje spletne platforme združuje mrežo organizacij za podporo podjetjem iz različnih regij in sektorjev po vsej celini. Platforma je odprt prostor za sodelovanje. EREK obravnava organizacije, ki se ukvarjajo s podjetji in posredniki, ki zagotavljajo informacije in podpirajo učinkovitost virov, od pomoči in svetovanja o tehničnih vprašanjih do financiranja MSP v Evropi. Mala in srednje velika podjetja, ki se zanimajo za učenje, kako postati učinkovitejše glede uporabne vire. Tudi mala in srednja podjetja, ki se ukvarjajo z učinkovito rabo virov, lahko najdejo tudi navdih, dragocene informacije in navodila na spletni strani EREK.



Presentation

EREK stands for the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre: a new European initiative that enables small and medium sized companies (SMEs) to make better use of their resources, produce less waste and increase their overall productivity and competitiveness. Via its online platform, EREK is bringing together a network of business support organisations from different regions and sectors across the continent. The platform is an open, collaborative space.

EREK addresses business-intermediary organisations that provide information and support for resource efficiency, ranging from assistance and advice on technical issues, to funding for SMEs in Europe. SMEs that are interested in learning how to become more resource efficient. Even SMEs taking actions on resource efficiency can also find inspiration, valuable information and guidance on EREK's website.

Priority areas of EREK covers:

- Offices
- Chemical and process engineering
- Construction
- Food processing
- Hotel and restaurant
- Manufacturing of machinery and equipment
- Metal and plastic processing
- Textile and clothing
- Timber and woodworking
- Waste management and recycling
- Wholesale and retail

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Organisations supporting business in Europe can get involved and make EREK their reference point on resource efficiency for the sharing of knowledge and expertise on resource efficiency. EREK is looking forward to welcoming new members to take part and stimulate resource efficiency initiatives in SMEs. With EREK, European SMEs can take their first step towards combining competitiveness with resource efficiency in their business operations. The expertise and tools offered help businesses save resources and cut costs.

For business intermediaries EREK offers:

- Workshops and webinars on resource efficiency trends and developments.
- Updates on professional events from within the European resource efficiency community.
- Regular updates on EREK-related developments and news from the EREK community.
- Extended learning and training materials. SMEs



EREK provides practical information, advice and support to improve resource efficiency in a cost-effective manner. With EREK, SMEs have access to:

- The latest information on resource efficiency, good-practices of European businesses and a selection of best available technologies.
- Self-assessment tools that estimate resource savings and provide tailored recommendations. These tools enable SMEs to compare their resource efficiency performance to their sector's benchmark.
- Access to knowledge, technical expertise and best practices through our expanding international network of members.
- An overview of support programmes and resources, available at the European, national and regional levels, that provide the infrastructure, tools and funding for resource efficiency initiatives.

EREK is an initiative of the European Commission implemented by a consortium of European Organisations: Technopolis Group, WRAP, VDI Zentrum Ressourceneffizienz, Motiva, Enviros, ARCTIK and Waat and an expanding network that includes: UEAPME (EU), BIZ-UP (AT), OVAM (BE), EfA NRW, Hessen Trade & Invest, Umwelttechnik BW (DE), IHOBE (ES), ADEME (FR), KÖVET (HU), EPA (IE), ENEA (IT), RVO (NL), IETU (PL), PEA, ANINOV (PT), NCSCP (RO), Zero Waste Scotland (UK).

