

The need for change



Prietenii Pamantului

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Why to change?

In a human civilisation analysis, technology evolution could be seen as the main characteristic of the humanity.

Unfortunately, the evolution of the human civilisation is based exclusively on the wild exploitation of the Earth's resources.

That's why we can assume that the evolution of the technology was much more faster than the evolution of human thinking.

We are trying to delay the extinction of the civilisation by re-introducing environmentally friendly technologies.

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Technology = Over-consumption?

Looking for definitions, we can find many ways to say the same things. I've chosen the following definition as being the most characteristic for the way of educating new generations:

"Technology is people using knowledge, tools, and systems to make their lives easier and better.

We use technology to control the world in which we live. People use technology to improve their ability to do work. Through technology, people communicate better. Technology allows them to make more and better products. Our buildings are better through the use of technology. We travel in more comfort and speed as a result of technology. Yes, technology is everywhere and can make life better." (Bergen County Technical Schools)

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What is alternative technology?

Alternative technology is a term sometimes used by **environmental advocates** to refer to technologies which are more environmentally friendly than the functionally equivalent technologies dominant in current practice. There are many factors which may be cited as implying greater environmental friendliness, such as greater efficiency, or different fuels or power sources. (Wikipedia)

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Target groups for alternative technology' promoters

Running the project Energy and Environment for People – an exhibition tour in 19 Romanian towns, and organizing every year public events connected with sustainable energy, we observed that the adults with a technical background are very skeptical concerning the capacity of alternative technologies to assure the needed energy and goods for a normal life.

More than this, few of them are approaching the environmental issues
Why?

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The education system isn't able to follow the permanent changes of the society

In Romania, the educators are formed in universities, where only few professors are kin to up to date their own information and knowledge. Many professors are too old, and not professionally motivated to improve their courses. They are using old literature from '50-'60, a literature promoting the idea of **humans=masters of the nature.**

So the young engineers are formed in a way excluding any environmentally friendly approach of technology.

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Who is winning what?

This education, poor in environmental and civic inputs, is just perfect from the point of view of large trans-national and monopolistic companies dealing especially with non-renewable Earth' resources.

They need this kind of engineers, they are happy with the lack of interest towards environment and sustainable development.

They are winning the race to nowhere, meantime getting fabulous profit for themselves.

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Who else is getting profit from the scarcity of resources?

- The weapon producers all around the world.

Why?

Because the end of fossil energy resources is already visible, and the still remaining oil (especially) has to be taken by the most powerful countries by the means of military conflicts in the name of democracy!!!!

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Who is the most aware on the need of alternative technology?

As a paradoxe, among the most aware on the need of using alternative technologies as a way of survival – are the groups of people living in countries producing important amounts of fossil fuels.

An other group pro-alternative technology is the group of people from African and South-East Asian poor countries.

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Lack of interest from CEE government representatives

I was looking for the Romanian governmental representatives during the World Conference on Renewable Energy but it was impossible to see them in the conference hall at the places specially reserved for them.

Other NGOs representatives from other CEE countries were unsatisfied with the behavior of their governmental representatives during the conference.

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We need to come back to the educational issues

It is obvious that the education for sustainable development is a very important issue and the UN decision to set-up the Decade for Sustainable Education in schools is a very important one.

We really need to switch from the contemplative way of teaching to a participative one. We need to introduce the practical education in a way that allow the students to apply into practice the theoretical knowledge acquired in school classes.

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The need of cooperation and coordination for sustainable development education

Working together in a project aiming to create, collect, and put together alternative materials for education on sustainable energy in European schools, different organisations from DK, UK, Malta, Poland, RO, tested their capacity to work together and to coordinate themselves in preparing the products of the project.

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Findings

The time schedule was not respected
because late transfer of money from the EC
The amount of money was extremely low

Good communication among the
participants

Professional approach of the issues

Good quality products

- Homo ludens
- Children and adults are enjoying toys
- Parents and teachers are unanimous
saying that children can easily learn
working on computer if they are playing
computer games