



Framework for reporting identified practices

Partner: Epirus

	Section	Indication of Content
1	Title of the practice	Preconditions for the creation and operation of petrol stations.
2	Precise theme/ issue tackled by the practice	Creation of a legal framework that determines the preconditions for the creation and operation of petrol stations.
3	Objectives of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Set a frame that describes the preconditions for the creation and operation of petrol stations. - Describe the actions that should be taken for the decrease of the risks caused by the operation of petrol stations. - Describe the procedure that should be followed by those who are interested in opening a new petrol station. - Set the technical standards for the required equipment/infrastructure in petrol stations (e.g. pumps, leaks alarm systems, tanks). - Determine the way that a petrol station should be constructed (e.g. entrance and exit of vehicles, minimum distance needed for drivers to see the petrol station) according to the place it is located (motorway, road connecting villages, inside a city etc.)
4	Location	Greece
5	Detailed description of the practice	<p>The operation of petrol stations is thought a high risk human activity, especially if we take into consideration the fact that petrol stations can be located in inhabited places. A legal frame that sets rules for the creation and operation of petrol stations is necessary. Some of the main points of the legal frame concerning petrol stations in Greece are mentioned below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A petrol station can get operation permits only if it is located in a place where this is allowed according to the uses of land determined in the spatial plan of the

		<p>Region/Municipality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The law determines the minimum distance needed for drivers to see the petrol station. That distance depends on the location of the petrol station (e.g. motorway, small road connecting towns, inside a city etc.). - A petrol station should have a minimum distance from places like churches, schools, hospitals etc. - The small “road” in the petrol station that enables the vehicles to enter/exit the station is made according to specific rules described in the law. - The building of the petrol station should not be made of flammable materials. - The law determines the technical standards for the pumps used in petrol stations. The main goal is to minimize the probability of leaks and accidents. - The law also defines the technical standards for the tanks used. The standards refer to the materials used, to the way of construction and to the techniques used to detect potential leaks. -The systems for the detection of leaks can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Systems that monitor the level of petrol/gasoline in the tank. ii) Systems that monitor the existence of substances, in the space between the double walls of a tank, that indicate leak in the tank. iii) Use of monitoring wells. - The tanks which are bigger than 20 m³ is obligatory to be underground, while smaller tanks can be over ground only in villages that have population less than 2000 people and can contain only petrol. - The law has a paragraph about the fire protection measures that should be taken. The owner of the petrol station should have a study for fire protection made by engineers. The study is finally approved by the fire brigade.
--	--	--

		<p>- The law also determines the procedure that should be followed for the necessary permits to be given. The departments of transports of the Regional Units are responsible for performing the inspections to petrol stations.</p>
6	Evaluation	<p>The law does not describe only the obligations of the owners of petrol stations or the way that a petrol station should be constructed but also determines the authorities which are responsible for giving permits. In that way is created a mechanism that makes sure that the law is applied.</p> <p>Moreover, the law indicates that the departments of transports of the Regional Units should perform regular inspections in order to make sure that petrol stations operate according to safety rules, while the fire brigade should confirm, after specific time periods, that the fire protection measures are sufficient. A monitoring mechanism is created in that way.</p>
7	Lessons learnt from the practice	<p>-The operation of petrol stations is a high risk human activity and regulations that decrease this risk are needed.</p> <p>- Special attention should be given to the rules concerning the systems that detect leaks and to fire protection measures.</p> <p>- The technical standards of the tanks and the pumps is an important aspect. The legal frame should take advantage of the opportunities given by new technologies.</p> <p>-There should always be provision for the mechanism that monitors the implementation of the regulations.</p>
8	Contact information	<p>Batzias Nikolaos Region of Epirus Regional Unit of Thesprotia Tel:26653-60333 E-mail:nimpatzi@thesprotia.gr</p>
9	Other possible interesting information	<p>The full text about the preconditions for the creation and operation of petrol stations (in Greek):</p> <p>GG A 119/16-6-2006</p>