



Helioz Research and Development GmbH

UN Global Compact Report on Progress (COP)

2017

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UN Global Compact
Communication on Progress (COP)

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General

Helioz Research and Development GmbH, hereinafter referred to as HELIOZ, is an Austria-based Social Enterprise engaged in R&D and sale of affordable products for low income households. Focus is placed on finding innovative solutions for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. The main product of HELIOZ is WADI, a scientifically tested and practically approved technology, which indicates the process of solar water disinfection (SODIS) in PET plastic bottles. A smiley face on the display indicates the point in time at which the UV-radiation of the sun has made contaminated water safe to drink. WADI provides households, schools and communities with a cost-effective and sustainable solution for gaining access to safe drinking water. Until the final set-up of WADI's serial production in March 2015, the work of HELIOZ had been dedicated to R&D. Since, the work has shifted, and primary focus is placed on marketing and sales in relation to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and CO2 compensation projects. As of today, WADI has received a positive WHO test report and has been implemented in various pilot projects. The current focus countries are in Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda) and Asia (India, Bangladesh).

Statement of continued support by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

December 31st, 2017

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that HELIOZ reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

In this annual Communication on Progress, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Martin Wesian

Founder and CTO

Human Rights Principles

Principle 1: HELIOZ supports and respects the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

Principle 2: HELIOZ makes sure that it does not complicit in human rights abuses.

The United Nations General Assembly ([UN, 2010](#)) explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation, and acknowledged that safe drinking water is essential to the realisation of all human rights. HELIOZ also believes that a sustainable safe water supply is fundamental to food security, health and survival, societal well-being and economic growth in low-income countries.

By inventing and developing the water treatment device WADI, HELIOZ aims to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable population and support progress in the field of human rights. To foster such commitment, and especially to enforce the right of everyone to water and sanitation, HELIOZ is a member of the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) since 2011. The Alliance advocates that women's and men's equitable access to and control over water (e.g. for domestic supply, sanitation, food security & environmental sustainability) is a basic right for all, as well as a critical factor in promoting poverty eradication and sustainability.

HELIOZ actively supports and respects all human rights (UDHR) and condemns all forms of discrimination under all circumstance. The company's strong attitude towards this topic can be observed in all business processes around the world.

Labour Principles

Principle 3: HELIOZ upholds the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

Principle 4: HELIOZ actively assists the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

Principle 5: HELIOZ supports the effective abolition of child labour.

Principle 6: HELIOZ aims to eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

HELIOZ respects and complies to the fundamental labour rights set out by the United Nations, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UN Global Compact. HELIOZ is in support of social justice and actively attempts to further progress. As part of this, HELIOZ scans and meets all its partners before starting any contractual business activities. HELIOZ asks them about their labour standards and commitment to work together for sustainable change and development. It needs to be added, however, that the implementing partners of HELIOZ are mostly NGOs and other Social Enterprises, who already put major focus on above stated labour principles themselves.

As a Social Enterprise, HELIOZ aims to drive labour rights on a global scale. HELIOZ does so by including local dealers, micro-entrepreneurs and organisations into its business practices, which gives added value to the local environment. These local partners earn much greater trust within their communities and can therefore act as multipliers for spreading awareness around labour principles and other human rights issues.

In this context it should also be mentioned that WADI consumers are mainly women. WADI enables them to spend more time, which has previously been used for collecting materials for disinfecting water (e.g. firewood) or being incapacitated due to water-borne diseases, to pursue other activities and income-generating goals; examples are further education or local involvement. This means that the use of WADI drives the empowerment of women and can improve the global gender equality.

Environmental Principles

Principle 7: HELIOZ supports a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

Principle 8: HELIOZ undertakes initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

As a Social Enterprise, HELIOZ places great importance on a low-impact and eco-friendly process of operations. Furthermore, HELIOZ actively promotes environmental sustainability and has included these principles in their service offerings for other companies in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and CO2 compensation. HELIOZ is currently involved in several business partnerships that support the sustainable implementation of WADIs in water-stressed regions, substituting the previous method of water disinfection through boiling with gas or firewood and strengthening community awareness in relation to water and sanitation measures with trainings. This leads to a significant reduction of CO2 emissions and creates sustainable access to safe drinking water to people in need.

HELIOZ has also committed to use its resources to tackle social and environmental issues of today.

Certified



Corporation

B Corp Certification

HELIOZ is a certified B Corp. Certified B Corporations meet the highest standards of verified, overall social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability. HELIOZ is the third company in Austria which certified as B Corp. In 2017 HELIOZ was B Corp nominee in the categories “Best for the World Overall” and “Best for Customers”.



Business Call to Action (BCtA)

In September 2017 HELIOZ joined Business Call to Action with a commitment to provide safe drinking water to 2 million people by 2025 with WADI and concurrently save 500.000 tons of CO2 emissions while reducing deforestation and respiratory diseases.

Principle 9: HELIOZ encourages the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

The efforts of HELIOZ to comply with above stated principles can be observed in the following connected paragraphs.

a. Energy and Material Inputs

For HELIOZ, the protection of the environment is more than just a concept. With its built-in solar cell, WADI is energy self-sufficient and does not require any batteries for usage. When acquiring rare earth materials, HELIOZ attaches great importance to ecological digging. Also, no chemicals are needed for solar water disinfection (SODIS), and the electronics within WADI do not include any harmful elements, e.g. plumb. Please also note that the product does not require spare parts or maintenance for use, and comes with a product guarantee of two years.

b. Waste Generation

The WADI is developed to be a long-lasting device (lifetime), which does not require any batteries, spare parts or maintenance for use. The created waste is therefore limited. Broken devices shall be returned by the users to local distribution partners, who are then in charge of appropriate waste disposal. In Austria, HELIOZ is member of the Altstoff Recycling Austria AG, which organises the disposal of WADI. Due to this sustainable membership, the product can be labelled with a crossed-out wheelee bin.

The global recycling of PET plastic bottles is much more critical. PET bottles need to be recycled or disposed properly in order not to create any negative environmental impact. In its safe drinking water projects, HELIOZ places strong focus on the sustainable use of PET bottles, and an adequate disposal in due time. It can additionally be said that WADI increases the lifespan of the numerous PET bottles, which are already available in rural areas.

c. Emissions to Air, Water and Land

The use of WADI does not lead to any CO₂ emissions. The use of one WADI saves up to three tons of CO₂ emissions each year. It is therefore much more sustainable than e.g. boiling water, which also makes use of firewood or kerosene for its disinfection process.

In comparison to other common water treatment methods such as water filters (e.g. use of electricity, spare parts), chlorine tablets (e.g. chemicals) or boiling water (e.g. CO₂, forest clearance), WADI can be described as the most sustainable approach.

Anti-Corruption Principles

Principle 10: HELIOZ works against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

HELIOZ strongly stands against corruption in all its forms, and includes this position in contracts with its business partners.