Cleaner Production (CP) is a preventive environmental strategy that aims to reduce waste and emission generation and improve the productive use of natural resources. UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) launched in 1994 a joint programme to establish National Cleaner Production Centres/Programmes (NCPCs/NCPPs). This UNIDO-UNEP Programme currently covers activities in 42 countries, including 12 in Latin America.

A new experience was implemented, in Latin America, since 2005: the creation of the Latin American Cleaner Production Network. This network has the participation of 12 countries of the region: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

This network has a knowledge management system that is available through its web page (www.produccionmaslimpia-la.net/www.producãomaislimpa-al.net). Details about this Network activities are available there and also about the activities of each one of the Centres/Programmes of Cleaner Production which composes it. There are also information about national and international events, guidebooks and technical reference manuals, as well as many technical documents, cases of application of cleaner production, documents about environmental legislation of each country member of the Network, monthly reports and several links.

CNTL SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP - Centro Nacional de Tecnologias Limpas SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP, created in Brazil in 1995, was the first national cleaner production centre implanted in Latin America and the 10th in the world, after the acceptance of SENAI to be the host institution of the Brazilian Cleaner Production Centre of the UNIDO-UNEP CP Network. Besides being member of this global network, CNTL
SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP is also a member of the Latin American Cleaner Production Network – CP Latin Net.

CNTL SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP offers consulting, capacitation, technological information, technology exchange and special projects focused in Cleaner Production and in several topics related to the environmental and energy areas, having also actuated in Latin America and Africa. Additionally, develops projects and offers technical support for the creation and implementation of environmental policies and programmes for the public sector (federal, state and municipal governments) and private (specially CNI, the National Confederation of the Industry and the Federations of Industries exiting in each Brazilian state). In 2002, CNTL SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP was appointed by the Federal Government as the Brazilian focal point for Cleaner Production matters to the UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme for the Latin America and the Caribbean.

From 2008 on, CNTL SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP started, with the support of CNI and SENAI, the implementation of the CNI Cleaner Production Network, which aims to implement a Cleaner Production Nucleus in each Brazilian state’s Federation of Industries.

The work presents information about the actions of the Latin American Cleaner Production Network – CP LATIN NET and of CNTL SENAI/UNIDO/UNEP activities.