



Life Cycle Data Network Launch

Increasingly, business and government want to assess and communicate the environmental performance of products and organizations. This requires a life cycle approach; considering supply chains, use and end of life along with all associated health, environment, resource and social considerations. Facilitating international networking of data, rather than reliance on any single provider¹, is essential and is supported by the Life Cycle Data Network being launched today.

In its 2013 Communication on "Building the Single Market for Green Products"², and in response to commitments in the Communication on "A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy"³, the Commission adopted a Recommendation on the use of the Environmental Footprint as a method to measure and communicate the environmental performance of products and of organisations.⁴ Availability of high quality data is a key element needed for future large scale implementation of this Recommendation and other life cycle based policies. This launch focuses on the data infrastructure that is critical for this uptake for successful implementation in business and policy decision support.

In response to the Integrated Product Policy Communication⁵, together with DG Environment, the JRC established the European Platform on Life Cycle Assessment⁶. Working closely with European business associations, a core achievement of this Platform was the establishment of the European Reference Life Cycle Database (ELCD). Iteratively, together with business, coherence and quality assurance have been improved for a core subset of life cycle data required for implementing Environmental Footprint other life cycle based methods; primarily for energy, bulk materials/metals, and transport. Such data reflect the emissions and the resources consumed that can be associated with the supply chains, use, and end-of-life of such goods and services.

Other life cycle data used in assessments have, until now, relied on a wide range of unconnected sources of data with varying coherence and quality. The Life Cycle Data Network, being launched at this event, is a crucial step towards addressing associated barriers to the effective uptake of the Footprint methods in policy and business. For example, dataset quality within the Life Cycle Data Network is ensured through the ILCD Entry-Level requirements⁷. Some major key LCA data providers have already announced their official commitment to participate to the Life Cycle Data Network.

¹ UNEP - SETAC Life Cycle Initiative (2011). " Global Guidance Principles for Life Cycle Assessment Databases."

² COM (2013) 196

³ COM (2011) 21

⁴ European Commission Recommendation (2013/179/EU)

⁵ COM (2003) 302

⁶ <http://ict.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

⁷ JRC Report "ILCD Data Network - Compliance rules and entry-level requirements" ISBN 978-92-79-22817-9



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG JRC - Institute for Environment and Sustainability
Sustainability Assessment Unit H08

Life Cycle Data Network Launch Agenda

06 February 2014, 09:00 – 11:00

**European Commission
DG Joint Research Centre / Institute for Environment and Sustainability**

**Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB) , Room AB-0A,
36 Rue Froissart, 1040 Brussels**

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| 09:00-09:30 | Registration |
| 09:30-09:40 | Welcome and opening speech: the Launch of the Life Cycle Data Network

Vladimír Šucha, Director General, DG JRC, European Commission |
| 09:40-09:55 | Policy and Life Cycle Thinking

Mr Alan Seatter, Deputy Director General, DG Environment, European Commission |
| 09:55-10:10 | Life Cycle Data Network: why a web based network

Maria Betti, Director of Institute for Environment and Sustainability, DG JRC, European Commission |
| 10:10-10:20 | Example of a Member State experience: National databases and Life Cycle Data Network

Riccardo Rifici, Italian Ministry for Environment, Directorate General for Environmental Assessment, Italy |
| 10:20-10:30 | Business perspective: Life Cycle Data Network nodes now and future developments

Patricia Vangheluwe, PlasticsEurope Consumer & Environment Director |
| 10:35-11:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |