Life Cycle in Practice: LCM For environmental and economic performance applied in 32 SMEs

Project partners:

Financial partners:
The LCiP project has targeted 3 industrial sectors (building, energy and recycling sectors) in order to implement Life Cycle Management among business practices and achieve a sustainable performance.

Project focuses on SMEs (with lack of resources/tools)
Physical Resource Centres were established in the four countries, in order to stimulate and support the application of lifecycle approaches.

Good practices identified, documented and highlighted in case studies and videos.

Online Resource Centre (ORC) is a dynamic repository of information on life cycle strategies, more than 300 resources gathered (TRAINING, TOOLS, CASE STUDIES, DOCUMENTATION, ORGANIZATIONS & NETWORKS).

Development of a network of 50 Life Cycle (LC) Champions, who are important regional players, well-established among SMEs, and having a vested interest in promoting and supporting the adoption of LC approaches by businesses.

In order to demonstrate the environmental and business benefits of applying LC approaches, pilot projects were run within 32 SMEs.

Creating a « fertile ecosystem » to meet regulation related to LCM (PEF/OEF, Circular economy package)

... Increasing the maturity of the whole sector
Implementing LCM in SMEs

Get more value out of LCM!

6 months project
32 pilots projects within SMEs

... Actors involved?

**SMEs**
- in which the LCA pilot projects were implemented,

**Coaches**
- LCA practitioners/sector experts driving the projects,

**Life Cycle Champions**
- Environmental support organisations, participating in the project in order to acquire specific skills in LCA implementation projects in SMEs.

Win/win situation
32 pilots projects within SMEs

... aims?

- Identify "hotspots" in the production process, highlighting problematic substances or processes and their impacts
- Ecodesign of new products
- Optimisation of existing processes
- Alternative substances, production processes, waste and by-product treatment
- Guidance in investment decisions (notion of environment economic return)
- Brand image and communication tools such as green marketing, product comparison, Environmental Product Declaration or Eco Labels
- Implement a complete Life Cycle Management strategy
32 pilots projects within SMEs

... propose a framework
32 pilots projects within SMEs

... Environmental Benefits?

Tangible improvement opportunities were identified:

- **Constalica (PT)** find that Madremax® metallic profiles permit to reduced 196 tons of CO2eq of industrial structures of buildings.

- **Rubber green (BE)** which highlight that using recycled aircraft tire is better than using standard virgin product from oil – 70% or more of impact reduction.
32 SMEs pilots projects

... Economic Benefits?

Reduction of cost: by improving the material used within the product (reducing losses), also the energy on the production / use phase and also reuse the product after its end of life as secondary raw materials (e.g. Domusa in Basque country reduced 25% of manufacturing costs of the boiler they produce).

New markets opportunities: by communicating the environmental performance of the products (e.g. MAPEI, communicates on the lower environmental impact of their paintings, key arguments especially in Nordic countries).

New technology / R&D: by improving the economic performance of a product/system in a R&D process (e.g. Brique ISO innovative production process (in-house) in order to improve the final price of their insulation system).
32 pilots projects within SMEs

... Other Benefits?

- **R&D development**: 34% of the SMEs will increase their R&D budget in mid/long term perspective.
- **Job creation**: 44% of the SMEs will create jobs (1 or more) in mid/long term perspective.
- **Capacity building**: 66% of the SMEs will increase trainings for their employees in mid/long term perspective.
Thank you!

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