

# FEEDBACK 2012

The [avniR] platform organised its second International conference on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) 6 and 7 November 2012 in Lille, France. The event brought together over 300 participants from more than thirty countries, making it the biggest ever bilingual event on life cycle thinking.

One of the main reasons for the conference's success was the focus on how life cycle assessment and life cycle thinking is applied for strategic decision making. Halfway between a business seminar and scientific symposium, the LCA conference was equally relevant to large companies, SMEs, researchers, local authorities, institutions and leading international experts.

**Other key to success: linking "think global" with "act local".** The [avniR] LCA platform is a collaborative project of the not-for-profit cd2e, who has fostered eco-enterprise development in Northern France for 10 years. The strength of [avniR] is its ability to bring together regional actors to work together on LCA and its applications in eco-design and environmental labelling. The Regional Council, chambers of commerce, business clusters and universities are all actively involved in the platform's projects, including the organisation of this conference. This is an innovative approach that has attracted interest from local organisations in other parts of the world that want to create a similar dynamic in their regions, but also international organisations working on a global scale such as the UNEP / SETAC Life Cycle Initiative.

## 2012 key figures

- 312 participants including 30% international**
- 32 countries represented**
- 67 speakers**
- 3 strategic plenary sessions**
- 12 workshops on life cycle & strategy, sector approaches and tools & methods**
- 100 scientific papers presented**



Michele Galatola (DG Environment) responds to the audience alongside Sylvain Chevassus (CGDD France) Fanny Demassieux (UNEP) and the conference moderator Paul Hohnen

## Conference Objectives

- Raise awareness of the importance of life cycle thinking.
- Share experiences and create a bridge between companies and researchers.
- Bring together international LCA actors to benefit from their life cycle thinking vision and experiences.
- Showcase examples of applying LCA in eco-design and environmental labelling.
- Create partnerships for further collaborative projects.

## Participants

Geographical origin	
Northern France	20 %
France- other regions	45 %
Europe (Excluding France)	24 %
North America	2 %
Other	9 %

Organisation type	
Academic / Research	26 %
Consultant / Expert	23 %
Cluster / Syndicate / CCI	19 %
Corporates	18 %
Public Authorities	9 %
SME	4 %
NGO / Association	1 %



Michele Galatola (DG Environment,) Bo Weidema (Ecolinvent) and Guido Sonnemann (Bordeaux University) prepare for the methodology session

## The Speakers



## Side events during the conference

### THE POSTER VILLAGES

In addition to the oral presentations, 100 displays of case studies, tools, initiatives and experiences were on show in seven different villages:

- / Mobility and energy
- / Textile and Processes
- / Building and construction
- / Food and beverages
- / Recycling and packaging
- / Tools, methods and IT
- / Mainstreaming life cycle and sustainable consumption



### RETAILERS FORUM

This invitation only forum, facilitated by PRé Consultants, brought together retailers from around the world to contribute to the conclusions of a report commissioned by the UNEP to map life cycle based initiatives to influence suppliers and consumers by retailers globally, focusing on what retailers are doing/not doing and why, how business models of retailers have changed and the drivers and barriers for more sustainability in the area of consumption and production.



Vee Subramanian from PRé North America facilitated the retailers forum

### UNEP/SETAC LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE, 2012-2017 STRATEGY LAUNCH

Representatives from United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), and partner organizations of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative launched their 2012-2017 strategy, which aims to mainstream life cycle approaches across the globe on Tuesday 6 November.



Sonia Valdivia from UNEP presented the new publication "Greening the Economy through Life Cycle Thinking during the launch



The LCM Academy participants at the [avnir] headquarters: Base 11/19 in Loos-en-Gohelle, the UNESCO heritage listed former mine site, now a centre for sustainable development.

## ...and following

### BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION DAY

20 Francophone participants took part in a visit of the "Eco-construction theatre" with demonstration of different LCA tools for the building sector and a seminar on challenges of LCA approaches for renovation.



### LCM ACADEMY

30 participants from around the globe participated in a special two days training session about how Life Cycle Management can help create sustainable business value. The LCM Academy was organized in partnership with the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative to facilitate cross learnings on Life Cycle Management between companies and organizations from around the world.



Marie Darul from the cd2e discusses developments in Life Cycle Thinking applied to buildings at the Eco-construction theatre with the LCM Academy participants.

### Invitation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> International [avnir] LCA conference 4-5 November, Lille Grand Palais

#### Key themes:

- Examples of practical application of life cycle thinking to demonstrate its value (economic or other), particularly in SMEs, public policy and business sectors
- New tools for eco-design, environmental labeling and LCA
- LCA and new business models: cradle to cradle, function-oriented models, circular economy, etc.
- Challenges and new developments in databases
- Developments in LCA methodology (input/output, consequential LCA, new indicators, uncertainty, etc.)
- Social and sustainable LCA

#### Key dates:

Deadline for abstracts (300 words)	15 April 2013
Notification of acceptance	20 April 2013
Deadline for papers	14 June 2013
Final acceptance of papers	14 September 2013

More information at [www.avnir.org](http://www.avnir.org), or contact: [avnir@cd2e.com](mailto:avnir@cd2e.com)

### Partners

