



The years to come

The next track to be considered by several CEPE paint sectors is building-up LCI data on the steps after paint leaves the factory (transport, application, end of life).

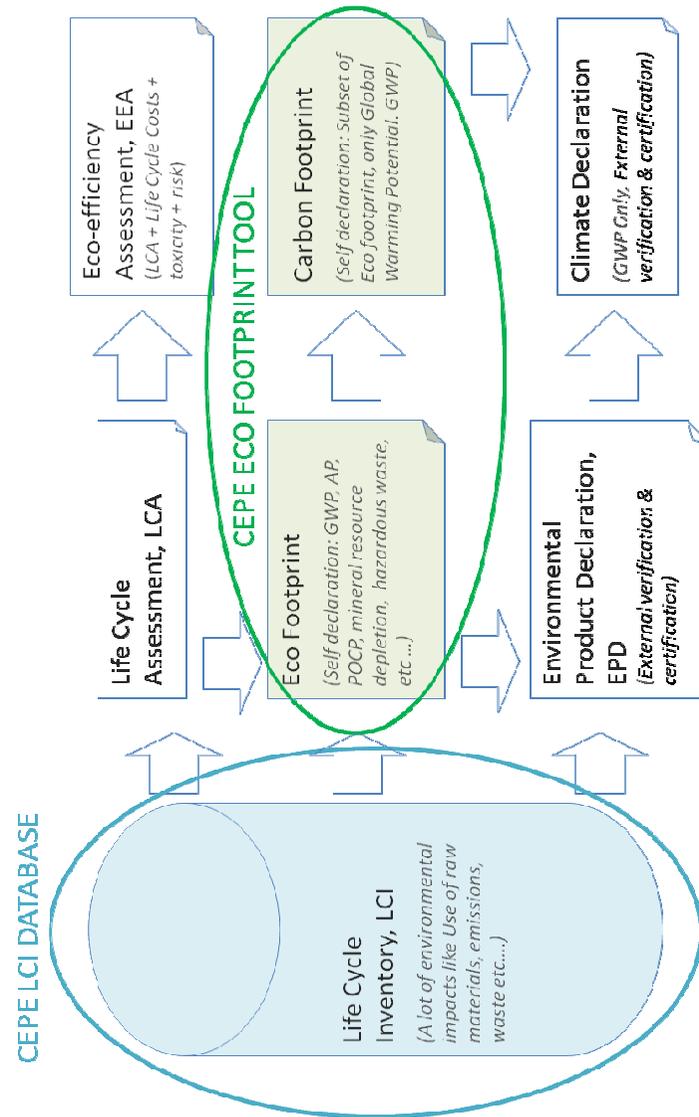
The current LCI-database will also be reviewed annually by the CEPE project team to identify the need for a revision of data or the inclusion of new raw materials.



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CEPE LCI Database & Ecofootprint Tool

Enabling CEPE members to calculate environmental impacts of paints



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Most people are aware that paints protect the metal or the wood they are applied on. The life time of articles can be considerably extended when an appropriate, relatively thin layer of paint is applied. From the perspective of Sustainability (or 'what is best for our planet') it is therefore much better to maintain an article with a regular coat of paint than to replace the article as this represents a far bigger impact on the environment than the thin layers of paint.

While this may be true for a simple consumer perspective, such a qualitative statement is no longer enough in a field where any sustainability claims must be supported by correct data based on accepted scientific methodologies. (Sustainable buildings etc.)



The European Paint and Printing Ink Council (CEPE) decided 3 years ago that it would do its 'homework' and meet the challenge of making claims in a more scientifically sound way. To do so one needs all kinds of environmental impact data on the raw materials and manufacturing processes of the industry's products. Creating such a Life Cycle Inventory database is a vastly complex job and could hardly have been done by an individual company.



A first track is finished

Jan van der Meulen, CEPE's Managing Director at the launch in June 2013:

"With today's launch CEPE finishes a first major step in enabling its members to embark upon Sustainable Development. What started in 2010 as a new topic to be addressed by a members' working group is today turning into two valuable deliverables for every CEPE member. Comprising a first time ever up to date industry Life Cycle Inventory database and a simple Eco-footprint tool that is adequate to do the elementary Life Cycle calculations. It is now up to the individual CEPE member to get familiar with the tool and database to find his way on the track to more sustainable paint solutions."

Use of the LCI project deliverables by CEPE members

The LCI database can be used

- in Life Cycle Assessment tools at the members' companies, and is directly plugged into the Ecofootprint tool;
- by members to evaluate their value chains, and compare different coating systems to see which product (or group) has a high or low footprint during each step of the process;
- to answer sustainability questions with confidence, and can be used as the main source of information for the creation of Environmental Product Declarations, Ecolabels etc.



Roll out and training

In the months to come, the National Associations will set up introductions for the local members and make them familiar with the tool and database.