

## Newsletter of the MEASURE project

The MEASURE project started in January 2015 as one of the European SPIRE coordination and supporting actions. Central aim of the project team is the publication of a harmonised roadmap for sustainability assessment in the European process industries and related collaborative projects in spring 2016. The MEASURE roadmap will address open issues, provide support and facilitate the design of enabling and at the same time sustainable technologies within the SPIRE Public private Partnership (PPP) program and pave the road for more cross-sectorial cooperation on sustainable innovations in industry.

At half time of the project, a first résumé can be drawn. The MEASURE team successfully involved a broad range of stakeholders in the analysis of the current state of life-cycle based assessment in different sectors of the European process industry. Snapshots of the communication activities are summarised in this newsletter. In parallel, thorough investigations of open issues in case of sector-specific as well as cross-sectorial cooperation of industries along the value chain have been performed. The outcomes of those activities provide a substantial foundation for recommendations towards a better utilisation of sustainability assessment tools and methods in future innovation processes on European scale.

More information about the latest MEASURE activities can be found below.

- [1<sup>st</sup> MEASURE workshop in Mechelen](#)
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### 1<sup>st</sup> MEASURE workshop in Mechelen



On May 13<sup>th</sup> 2015, on behalf of the MEASURE project, Ghent University organized a first workshop on Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment in collaboration with essenscia, the Belgian Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences industries.

The workshop took place in Technopolis, Mechelen (Belgium), and gathered 45 invited participants representing a wide range of stakeholders from academia, professional associations, consultancy, retailers, and industry. The intention of this workshop was to present the key topics on which the MEASURE project will focus and receive first feedback to help orientating the work. Many inputs were received and served as a basis for internal project discussions.

### Contribution of the MEASURE team to the LCM2015 conference in Bordeaux

During the Life cycle management conference (LCM2015) in Bordeaux, the MEASURE team had the chance to provide first insights on the project results and receive feedback from practitioners' perspective in a short course titled *Cross-sectorial standards and best practices for environmental*

*assessment in process industries.* The short course was designed as an interactive workshop to allow intense experts discussion and to ensure best stakeholder engagement.

Cross-sectorial data management was among the key topics. The MEASURE partners shared their experiences from an industrial perspective as well as the difficulties they have to face. The audience highlighted confidentiality issues as a large hurdle. Possible solutions were shared and discussed, one major conclusion being that data sharing works best if all parties can benefit from it. Although many of the participants rely on databases, the need to understand and verify the data was agreed upon by everyone. Furthermore, special issues regarding data handling in R&D projects on new innovative technologies were presented to the audience. The need for suitable tools and assessment methods at the different stages of development became clear.



Interactive presentations about methodological challenges and possible standards for the use of LCA in European projects provided further valuable insights, including that not all issues should be addressed by LCA but other tools can sometimes be more relevant and helpful.

## **Sector specific analysis**

End of October 2015, the MEASURE team has completed a detailed analysis of the current state of sustainability assessment in the European process industries. In line with the key topics of the three cooperating European SPIRE 4-14 projects (SAMT, STYLE and MEASURE), the particular focus of the analysis has been on the adoption and use of life cycle based assessment methods. The aim of the analysis was to evaluate how sustainability assessments are conducted within the European process industries; the methods used for evaluating across different levels of goal and scope and within different pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic and societal needs); and their acceptance by a variety of stakeholders. The analysis has been conducted by the MEASURE team through online surveys, literature review, expert interviews and workshops with stakeholders from industry, industry associations, governmental authorities, academia, and consultancies.

The analysis of the practice of sustainability assessment in the European process industries has considered overarching cross-sectorial issues as well as more detailed investigation into three specific sectors:

- Chemicals and fast-moving consumer goods
- Metal and automotive industry
- Solid waste management

These three sectors were chosen due to their different natures and in particular their varying positions along the value chain in order to adequately represent the overall process industry.

Where possible, key messages or recommendations were extracted for how assessments could be harmonised or improved either cross-sectorial or within a specific sector. For example, key messages are given to focus on using meaningful, scientifically robust and accepted sustainability indicators, to

adequately consider sensitivity and uncertainty of the results or to improve the way complex information is presented to consumers and downstream businesses.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> MEASURE workshop in London

A second MEASURE Workshop was organised in London on October 12/13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Besides the project team and the Advisory Board of MEASURE, selected representatives of industry, regulators, scientific community and the related EU projects SAMT and STYLE participated. The MEASURE team first presented the results of the three sector specific analyses, as well as



open issues and the first key messages/recommendations to improve the practice of sustainability assessment in European process industries. Then, focus was made on specific key topics such as resource efficiency, data sharing along the supply chain, the SPIRE approach for EU funded research projects and methods/tools harmonisation. The presentations were the basis for active discussions. The feedback received during this workshop will be included in the ongoing work on the MEASURE roadmap which will be published in March 2016.

## Next event

The final dissemination event organised by the MEASURE project will be held in **Berlin on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016**. During this public event, the MEASURE team will present the final roadmap on cross-sectorial sustainability evaluation in European process industries. The participation will be free of charge.

### MEASURE project consortium:



ThyssenKrupp Steel Europe



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