



Action 530

COST Action 530
Working Group « Data base »
a European coordination platform
for LCI activities

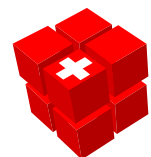
Roland Hischer

National Delegate / Member of MC COST Action 530
EMPA, Sustainable Information Technology Unit
St. Gallen, Switzerland



Content

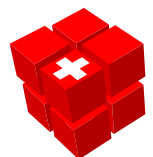
- Main characteristics of COST / COST Action 530
- WG „Data base“ of COST Action 530
 - Objectives
 - Activities
 - Members and their experience
- Possibilities in the field of LCI quality
- Conclusions & Outlook





● Main characteristics of COST / COST Action 530

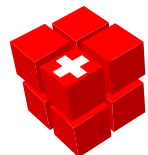
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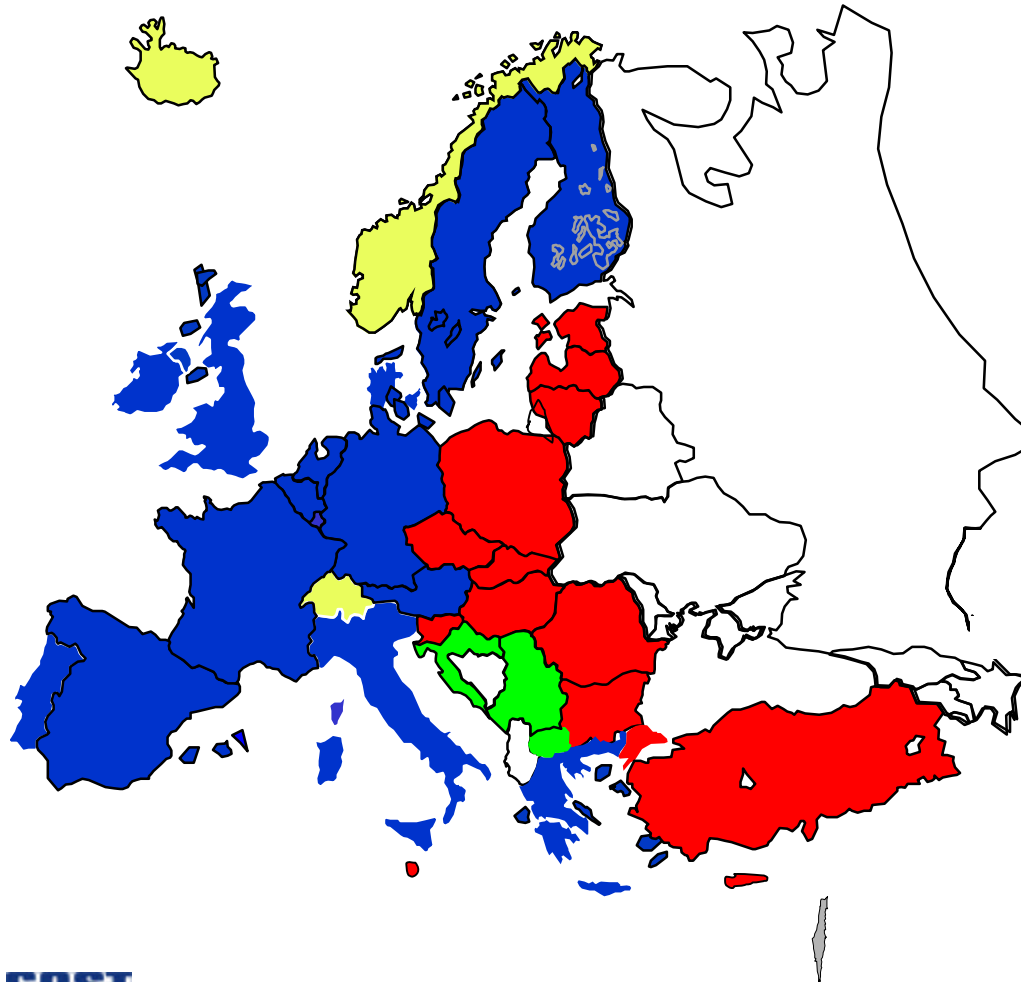
What is COST ?

- **CO**opération européenne dans le domaine de la recherche **S**cientifique et **T**echnique (European **CO**operation in the Field of **S**cientific and **T**echnical Research)
- Intergovernmental co-operation
 - founded in 1971
 - today 17 Scientific & Technical domains
- COST Actions
 - Concerted actions of nationally funded R&D
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)





Who is participating ?



◆ **The fifteen EU Member States**

◆ **EFTA Member States**

- Iceland
- Norway
- Switzerland*

◆ **Candidate Countries**

- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Turkey*

◆ **Other Countries**

- Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*
- Croatia *
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)*

◆ **Co-operating State**

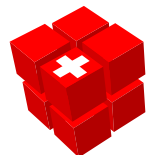
- Israel

◆ **Others**

- European Commission
- International Organisations



* Not Associated to FP



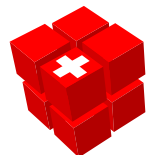


COST Action 530

COST Action 530: Sustainable Materials Technology, Life Cycle Inventories for Environmentally Conscious Manufacturing Processes

Chair: Michael Betz, PE europe, Stuttgart (DE)

*“Increase knowledge about the **environmental impacts of manufacturing processes** in order to develop and apply environmentally conscious processes, reduce environmental impacts and costs, and take knowledge based decisions. This will be reached by fostered **application of the Life Cycle Assessment methodology** within the manufacturing industries.”*





COST Action 530 - Objective(s)

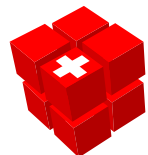
- To **promote basic academic research** in the interdisciplinary field of Life Cycle Assessment and modelling

and

- to **achieve a useful application** of the advanced knowledge in manufacturing industries.

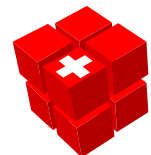
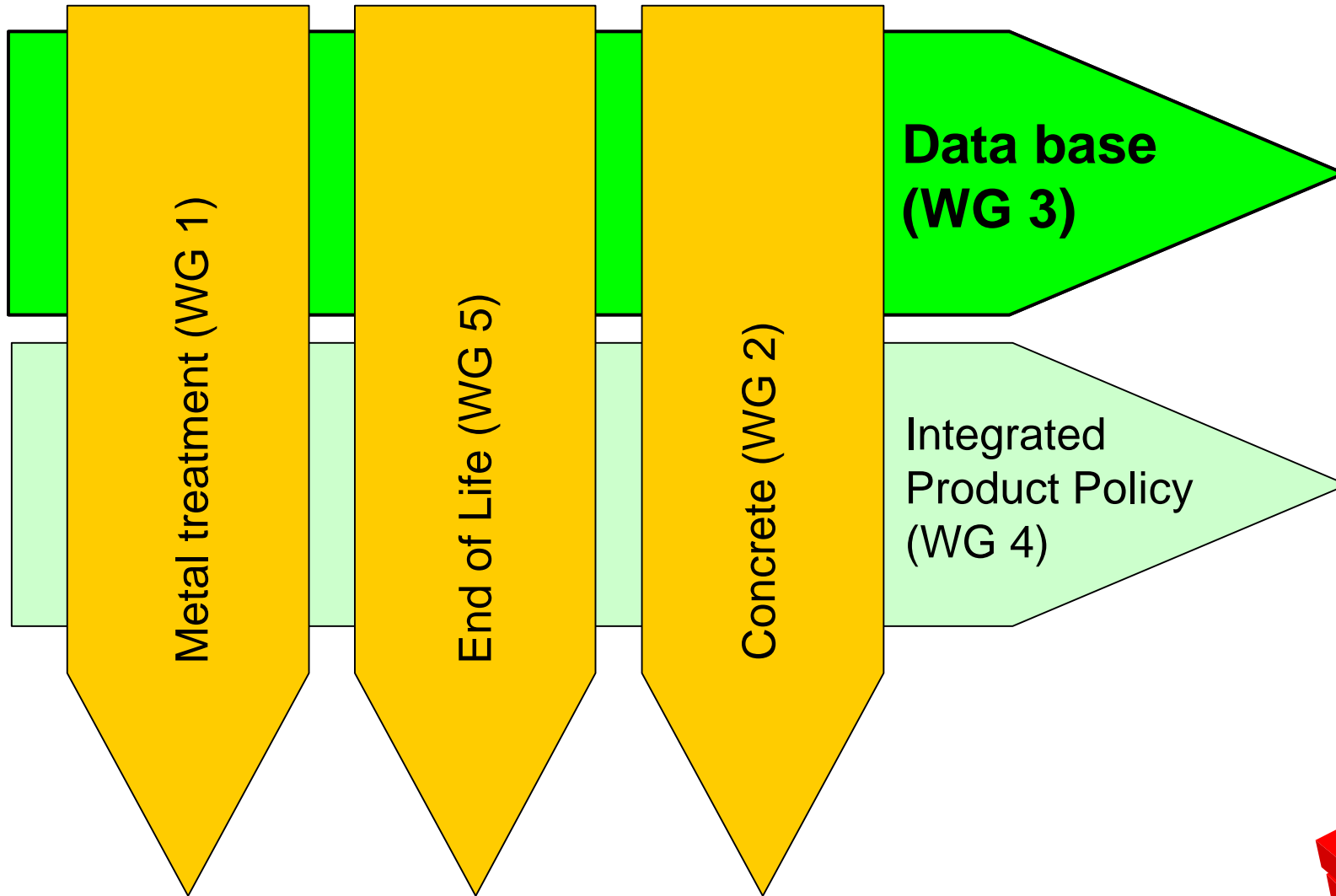
Necessary for this:

- To address the needs and expectations of European manufacturing industries in the field of LCA.



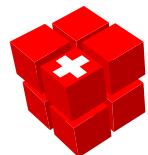


WG structure of COST 530





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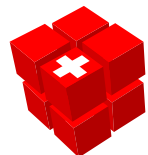
Objective WG „data base“

Harmonisation / standardisation / common rules in the field of LCA for

- Coherent / similar **exchange of** different **datasets**
- Comparable datasets **between different DB** / within DB
- Common **European position** in international initiatives
- **Capacity building** in the field of LCA within Europe

by

- **coordination** of on-going work
- establishing **common protocols** for data handling
- **case studies** for verification





Proposed fields of activity

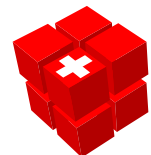


Proposed activities

- „Interpreter“ (for existing DB)
 - Common language for the transfer of datasets between different databases
- New compatibility problems (between different national LCI-DB's)
 - Identifies new problem fields
 - Establishes possible solutions / rules of common understanding
- Capacity building for further European countries
 - Supporting efforts for national LCI initiatives in further European countries



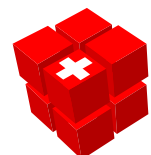
(Proposition at MC meeting on June 5th, 2003 (Espoo, FIN))





Activities

- Origin of various Proposals in the framework of the 6th Framework Programme (Eol, IP, ...)
- STSM (short-term scientific mission) comparing different data formats finished (see presentation tomorrow)
 - Anne-Sophie Kumlin (IVL) @ EMPA St. Gallen
- First meeting of WG members (11 persons from 6 countries announced) on October 22, 2003, in Karlsruhe
 - Invited Guest: Thomas Rydberg, JRC (Ispra, IT)





Members

Announced

(before June 5, 2003)

- CH, R. Frischknecht
- DE, M. Baitz
- DE, Chr. Bauer
- GR, A. Boura
- GR, Chr. Koroneos
- SE, L.G. Lindfors
- SE, M. Zackrisson

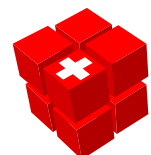
Participants on first meeting

- R. Frischknecht
- Chr. Bauer
- **B. Krutwagen (NL)**
- **N. Frees (DK)**
- L-G. Lindfors
- **M. Erixon (SE, Spine)**
- **Th. Rydberg (EC)**
- **H. Tontieri (FIN)**
- and other ...

as on September 25, 2003

„Missing“

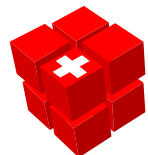
- United Kingdom
- Austria
- Spain
- **Italy**
- **France**
- Eastern Europe





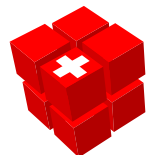
Projects of WG participants

- Swiss Centre for Life-Cycle Inventories (ecoinvent)
 - DB online since September 2003
 - Data(exchange)format implemented into main LCA-tools
- Swedish Industrial Research Institutes' Initiative (SIIRI)
 - Platform (NOT a DB !) for exchange of LCA data
 - Online since summer 2002
- German Network „Lebenszyklusdaten“ (FZK)
 - German Initiative for National LCI data
- Danish LCA Center (IPU / dk Teknik /)
 - Promotes & supports LCA activities in Denmark





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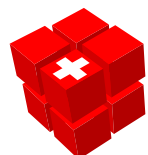
3 areas of interest

Achieving harmonisation / standardisation / common rules in the field of LCA for

- Coherent / similar exchange of different datasets
- Comparable datasets between different DB / within DB
- Common European position in international initiatives

by

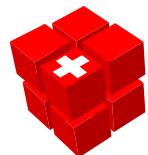
- **coordination** of on-going work
- establishing **common protocols** for data handling
- **capacity building** in other European countries





Coordination

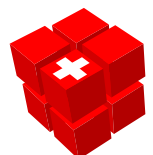
- Most major players in the European field of LCI are integrated
 - good opportunity for a European **coordination platform** in the field of LCI
- Would achieve similar goals / objectives with their respective initiative
 - very good opportunity for higher degree of **cooperation / common** projects
 - ← BUT - more **coordination efforts** needed ...





Common protocols

- A lot of national initiatives on-going / established in Europe
 - New problem fields / open question in the inter exchange between different national LCI databases
- results in **new types of questions / research fields** in the area of LCI
- a much closer and more intensive **cooperation** is indispensable for all players
- ← BUT - more **coordination efforts** needed ...



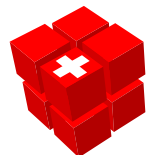


Capacity building

- LCA (instrument / use) in general not very well known
- Several Eastern European Countries are participating to this COST Action (all of them are part of COST)

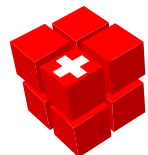
→ have **first contacts** for introduction of LCA in eastern European countries

← Only foreseen in a **2nd phase** of this COST Action





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Conclusion

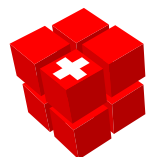
On-going efforts / initiatives in various countries tries all to achieve **similar questions / ideas**

→ **cooperation** of the different LCA communities would facilitate work for all

On-going efforts / initiatives in various countries results in **new types of questions / research fields** in the area of LCI

→ closer and more intensive **cooperation** is indispensable for the different LCA communities

← WG could be seen as a good opportunity for such a European LCI **coordination platform !**

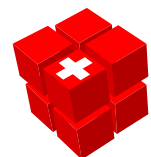




Outlook

COST Action 530
working group 3 „Data Base“
1st meeting

October 22nd, 2003, 09.00 – 16.00h
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe





... thank you for your attention !

More information:

- COST-Server (general information):
<http://cost.cordis.lu/src/home.cfm>
- Homepage of COST Aktion 530:
<http://www.empa.ch/cost530>

