

**International Summer School on  
“Life Cycle Approaches to Sustainable Regional Development”**  
4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
**28 – 30 August 2015**  
Back to back to LCM 2015 Conference  
Bordeaux, France

## **Background**

The on-going growth of using life cycle thinking in recent years has placed this approach more centrally in a sustainable development context. Life cycle thinking is now increasingly common in both the private and public sectors, invoking concepts, programmes and tools that put more holistic ideas into practice across the whole value chain of products and services.

Analytical approaches employed in such a holistic approach include life cycle assessment, carbon and water footprints, material flow analysis and environmental extended input output tables, and socio-economic life cycle assessment and costing. Procedural and communication methods include design for sustainability, product-oriented environmental management systems, sustainable management of industrial areas, eco-labelling, green procurement and integrated sustainability reporting. Multinational companies and national governments have been among the principal users of such approaches in their quest for sustainable product development and marketing.

An aspect that has been less addressed in the literature is the potential role that life cycle approaches can play to foster also more sustainable forms of regional development. To fill this gap the summer school describes the current state of life-cycle management discussions, provides an introduction to life cycle assessment, looks at the life cycle of materials and shows ways how to strengthen sustainable innovation in regional socio-economic development processes. In addition to the principles and practices employed to this end, a number of case studies are presented to illustrate the actual application of these ideas.

## **Short History**

In the autumn of 2011 Prof. Stefania Massari of the Faculty of Economics of University of Salento invited the former chief of UNEP’s Production and Consumption Branch Dr. Fritz Balkau to give two seminars on "Making production and consumption sustainable" and "Life cycle management for sustainability" for the students of her University. In view of the success of this initiative and the interest shown for these topics, it was decided to structure an International summer school on a permanent yearly basis to diffuse the importance of life-cycle approaches to sustainable regional development. Thanks to the support of University of Salento and the sponsorship of Monte dei Paschi di Siena bank, from 2012-2014 the LCSS (Life Cycle Summer School has been successfully running every year, initially held in Lecce (Italy) and then in Santa Maria di Leuca (Italy).

In 2012 Prof. Guido Sonnemann from the University of Bordeaux was invited to join the LCSS organisation committee that was approached after the summer school in 2013 to prepare a text book on the topic of Life Cycle Approaches to Sustainable Regional Development”. The book is currently being prepared and expected to be completed by the end of this year. Taking advantage of the organisation of the LCM 2015 Conference it was decided to move the summer school to Bordeaux (France) in 2015.

More information on the previous LCSS editions can be found here:  
<http://www.lcss.unisalento.it/>

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## Organisers and sponsors

