

Newsletter

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January 2014



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Welcome to this edition of the CAP'EM newsletter. In this newsletter we zoom in on Globe 21, the development of the web application, CAP'EM COMPASS,

The goal of the CAP'EM project is to promote eco-materials and to provide the construction industry with simple and practical tools to support their adoption

January 2014,,
The CAP'EM team

CAP'EM extension

The project CAP'EM succeeded in the application for an extension of the project. The CAP'EM project period is extended till September 2014. In this extra time the partners will focus on the implementation of the CAP'EM method in the national standards or leading market schemes.

In this period we will also work on an extension of the CAP'EM method that is suitable for the gate to grave phase of the products. The result will be an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) fitting in the European standards. This improves the practical use of the CAP'EM LCA results for the manufactures. In this newsletter you can already see some of the steps taken in the extension.

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5 Questions to GreenDelta

During the last few years, CAP'EM has assessed many sustainable building products. The German company GreenDelta has developed the technical side of CAP'EM COMPASS, the web tool to access the database in which the results of these assessments are found. We asked GreenDelta five questions to know the state of affairs.

GreenDelta

- **What is GreenDelta?**

GreenDelta is an independent sustainability consulting and software development company in Berlin, Germany. For more than ten years we are working in different Life Cycle and sustainability fields (Life Cycle Assessment, Social Life Cycle Assessment, and Life Cycle Costing, quality assurance), and we develop software such as openLCA, the professional open source LCA and sustainability assessment software. For details please see www.greendelta.com and www.openlca.org

- **What was the role of GreenDelta in the development of CAP'EM Compass?**

Our responsibility was to develop and implement the web tool according to the CAP'EM Method, that has been developed in the course of the project. For the design, we could rely on the existing CAP'EM website; the functional equivalency method and the data sets were developed and / or collected by other consortium members.

- **What were remarkable accents you have learned during the development?**

Never underestimate the effort of collecting real data! That is maybe not completely new but we realised it again here in the project. CAP'EM coordination and project members helped a lot with their engagement and enthusiasm to solve any upcoming issues.

- **What do you think of the final version of CAP'EM Compass?**

During development, we received a lot of very valuable feedback from CAP'EM, which supported us to deliver the layout and implementation of functionalities. This helped to produce the final version that we really like to see in use.

- **Were there special constraints for you to overcome?**

Sometimes little things, which seem to be just minor layout improvements, can throw up further questions and be more challenging than expected. Additionally, the import of information from the Excel sheets has required very precise work from both CAP'EM and us, as such a mapping is very specific and may be subject to changes during development. In the end there was a solution to (almost) everything.



Thanks to the team: Andreas Ciroth, Michael Srocka and Martin Pluta for the collaboration and for their patience.

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Partner Zoom: Globe 21, France



Who is Globe21?

Globe21 is a non-profit organization founded in 2005 in Château-Thierry in the French département l'Aisne.

The name Globe21 is an acronym "Groupement Local pour le Bâtiment Ecologique du 21e siècle" which in English would translate as local group or cluster for eco-construction in the 21st Century.

It was set up to bring together the different actors of the building industry who share the common objective of furthering and developing eco-construction.

Initially its geographical influence was limited to the southern part of the Aisne département; since then two sister groups have been born in the neighbouring Oise département, and also one in Brittany.

What does it do ?

The group has three main parts to its activity.

On the one hand on an internal level it brings the different actors together and encourages a culture of sharing experiences and knowledge in a way that is inhabitual within the classic framework of the building industry. Thus at our monthly meetings we discuss different themes pertaining to eco-construction on both theoretical and practical levels. There is much feedback from the different construction projects that the different members are involved in.

Indeed the members of Globe21, having learned to work together have over the years done several buildings together providing a living demonstration of sustainable working practices.

Our second axis of activity is on the teaching or informational front.

We organise training sessions for professionals and every first Saturday of the month we have an open-house policy where anyone who has questions about how best to build or renovate can

come and get free advice.

To further contribute to the general dissemination of information about eco-construction, we are present at all sorts of trade or cultural fairs either at a local or national level.

The third axis could loosely be called research and development; under this heading, and on behalf of local government, we are currently running a programme to help understand and develop the wood for building sector in our geographical area.

Under this R&D title, there is of course our involvement in CAP'EM...

& CAPEM in all that ?

Globe21 is in part at the origin of the project and it has been the opportunity for us to contribute to finding an answer to a question that we often hear when people come to us for advice; how does one define an eco-material?



Therefore we were most happy to inaugurate our new exhibition space in July 2013 largely given over to explaining CAP'EM and, above & beyond that, eco-construction in general.

Since then we have continued to evolve the exhibits and as soon as the CAP'EM COMPASS tool is up and running in French, we will be adding a computer or two to the space so that people who come to visit will be able to use the comparison tool with or without some help from us.

Meanwhile, we continue to do the rounds of various trade fairs and always make a point of taking our CAP'EM information brochures and roll-up with us.



CAP'EM COMPASS

In November CD2E organized the Eco conference, at Loos-en Gohelle, France Together with the Strategic Cluster Project ENVIREO. During this day the CAP'EM COMPASS was presented



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CAP'EM COMPASS

Building Products Comparison System

Welcome Search Compare Contact

Welcome to the CAP'EM tool.

The CAP'EM tool makes it possible to compare the environmental impact of eco-materials for the built environment on several impacts. If this is the first time you are using this tool it is recommended to read the short instructions below.

Search

The Search tab allows you to select criteria for the type of material you are looking for. The chosen criteria will filter the materials in the database to show only those that match your search. It is then possible to select a number of materials for comparison that fall within these criteria.

The following steps need to be taken in the Search screen:

1. Select a building element. This element describes in what part of the building the material will be used, for example in the foundation, a floor or an internal wall.
2. Select a function. The function describes what the product will have to do, for example provide lateral stability or thermal insulation.
3. Optional: select a number of preferences to further filter the materials in the database, such as recycled content and environmental labels.
4. Select a number of materials to compare from the results.
5. Click the Compare button. This will take you to the Compare tab.

If you want to know more about a material you can click on its name. A window will be displayed containing detailed information, such as manufacturer information and technical data.

Please note that the environmental impacts are shown relative to the material with the highest impact. Therefore a score of 0% does not have to mean that there is no impact. Also materials with the same relative score can still have differences between them.

Compare

The Compare tab allows you to compare the selected products on several environmental impacts. The results can be displayed in both charts and tables and can assist you in making a decision.

By default the results are shown in a graph with three environmental impacts: human health, ecosystem quality and resource depletion. It is possible to select more specific impacts to be shown, such as climate change and ozone depletion.

In the Compare tab it is possible to add a generic material to the comparison to see how the impact of the selected eco-materials compares to a commonly used material for that function. It is also possible to add the transport of the materials.

Please note that it is not possible to determine if a score on one impact category is better or worse than a score on another impact category. This is because you don't know how bad the effect of that impact is.

More information

[CAP'EM - Functional Units](#)
[CAP'EM - Manual](#)
[CAP'EM - Method Document](#)
[CAP'EM - Wiki](#)

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More information on: www.capem.eu/compass

New developments in the LCA/EPD World

CAP'EM and the [Eco platform](#)

On June 4th 2013, the ECO Platform was officially founded. This Platform brings 11 (and counting) EPD program operators in Europe together to discuss mutual recognition of EPD's (European Product Declaration) in Europe. The mutual recognition of EPD's will not only reduce costs for the industry but is an excellent opportunity to improve quality and availability of EPD's in Europe as well. Moreover the ECO Platform aspires to be an important partner in current and future development of EU standard on EPD's.

The CAP'EM partners became member of the ECO Platform since October 2013. Besides being in contact with all the leading EPD program operators in Europe, this is a great opportunity for CAP'EM to be in the center of EPD evolutions in Europe.

More information on: www.eco-platform.org

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Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)

European Commission selected CAP'EM for pilot Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)

CAP'EM Consortium has been selected by European commission to pilot the experimentation of PEF (Product Environmental Footprint) on thermal insulation products. Our application was based on the work done within the Interreg IVb CAP'EM Project and LCAs run for bio-based and recycle content products. The PEF development is part of the **Single Market for Green Products** Initiative from the European Commission.

European Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik said: *"To boost sustainable growth consumers need to be able to identify genuinely green products and companies, and this is an important step in that direction. (..) Reliable and comparable information about the environmental impacts will bring increased transparency and will build trust with consumers, business partners and investors."*

Our 2 years pilot will start officially in 2014 in parallel with second pilots.

More information on: www.capem.eu

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Out and about

LivingGreen Extension

One of the partner projects in Envireo; LivingGreen has got an extension from December 2013 till March 2015.

LivingGreen aims to demonstrate and make accessible the technologies and methods which are available for sustainable renovation and jointly develop and introduce new sustainability products and services for the renovation sector.

[More information http://www.livinggreen.eu](http://www.livinggreen.eu)

The results of the CAP'EM-project will be integrated with LivingGreen and vice versa.

Green Deal Biobased Building, Netherlands

In the Netherlands our Dutch partner Agrodome has signed a contract between 3 Ministeries and more then 20 stakeholders to create a level playing field for biobased building materials, products and building concepts. This Green deal is a result from the exposition opening of the CAP'EM biobased pavilion at ICDUBO, Rotterdam. This deal wil end in 2015.
www.greendealbouwen.nl

Upcoming Events were CAP'EM is involved or part of

20 Februar – 2 March 2014

Batibouw, Brussels Expo, Belgium

4 March – 6 March

EcoBuild & RESOURCE London, United Kingdom (Visiting but not exhibiting, Our collaborators ASBP Alliance for Sustainable Building Products will be running seminars to be attended by CAP'EM and all.)

13 March 2014

Opening Huddersfield watertower, United Kingdom

March 2014

Opening Haus Kump, Münster, Germany

27 March 2014

Conference biobased concepts HAN (university), Arnhem, Netherlands

[More information about these events:](#)

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