

**APPLICATION TRENDS OF LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA) IN
BUSINESS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

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ABSTRACT

The paper reports the results of a survey about the use of LCA in business in four selected European Countries, namely Germany, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland. 1600 questionnaires have been sent out to selected companies in the four countries. As expected, there are big differences between countries because of different level of environmental awareness. However, there are some main common results. The first one is that the cultural approach is spreading out, but not yet the tool. LCA is by far not used yet as a routine tool for assessing environmental aspects of product innovation and it is still rather employed in a retrospective way than in a prospective one. Benefits of LCA are considered to be rather long-term ones. On the other hand, the large majority of firms is optimistic about the future use of LCA, most likely linked together with other instruments.