

Putting the metrics behind sustainability at JRC.



JRC Territorial inventory



The Challenge

The European Commission wants to monitor progress toward sustainable consumption and production in the European Union (EU). To get insight into environmental impacts that are decoupled from economic growth, the client identified the need for life cycle based indicators. They therefore initiated the “territorial inventory” project. The project’s aim was to develop complete datasets of environmental emissions and resource extractions that took place annually in the EU27 and in each individual member state between 1990 and 2010. The project was commissioned by the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the European Commission’s Joint Research Center and was executed by PRé together with Radboud University Nijmegen and Technical University of Denmark.

PRé Solution

To develop such a large database, many publically available data sources needed to be used. Despite the complexity of managing this database, the greatest challenge was to fill in the many gaps in those data sources. Together with the partners, PRé developed several innovative and scientifically robust estimation techniques to minimize uncertainty in the final results. PRé’s experience with territorial inventory data for the EU and life cycle inventory data management was very useful for managing the project. The partners provided excellent scientific input to make the project successful.

The most important results are:

- Territorial inventory datasets (28 regions x 21 years) with more than 3000 different emissions and resource extractions, which took place annually between 1990 and 2010 in the EU27 and its individual member states.
- Compatibility with the ILCD format and SimaPro, so the datasets can be used for analyses with several life cycle impact assessment methods.
- A detailed report that describes the data sources and estimation techniques for optimal transparency and further development.

Business Value

- PRé enabled the monitoring of the progress of the environmental impact taking place in the territorial boundaries of the EU27 and each member state.
- PRé contributed to scientific developments in the field of life cycle inventory data estimation techniques, which enabled the development of the territorial inventory database, which can be useful for the development of other databases.
- PRé shared its expertise and knowledge to develop a database that is publically available and can be used for multiple purposes, such as policy support and normalization of (regionally specified) life cycle impact assessment methods.





Creating Business Value Through Sustainability Metrics

Sustainability Metrics Consulting

Sustainability in business has become a core business concern and a driving factor in creating business value. PRé offers a range of consulting services, provided by a team of experts who will work with you to choose, create and deliver the right metrics for your sustainability goals.

PIONEERING Developing Innovative New Metrics For New Challenges

Societal and stakeholder expectations for implementing sustainability in business are becoming more demanding. Sometimes, off-the-shelf metrics cannot help you answer their questions. PRé has extensive experience in life-cycle-based metrics pioneering: implementing cutting-edge new product metrics and developing completely new, scientifically sound and robust metrics. PRé has been the driving force behind many ground-breaking initiatives like ReCiPe or the Handbook for Product Social Impact Assessment.

INTEGRATION Integrating Sustainability Metrics In Your Business

To create business value from sustainability, your business needs to integrate sustainability metrics across its business functions. You can't improve what you can't measure. PRé has the expertise required to help you choose the right metrics and to integrate sustainability into your day-to-day operations. PRé also supports you in increasing the efficiency of your LCA work and in empowering your LCA practitioners.

DELIVERY Expert LCA Knowledge To Measure Sustainability Performance

LCA has proven to be a robust and science-based way to measure and communicate your sustainability performance. PRé can review your LCA studies, deliver EPDs, footprints and other metrics, and provide you with completely new LCA studies to measure your impact. Our consultants are renowned for their expertise in specific topics, such as impact assessment, uncertainty, normalisation, toxicity, social sustainability and databases. PRé offers training courses and in-house training that build a solid knowledge base to help you conduct LCA studies yourself.

Get In Touch With PRé
We're always happy to discuss your sustainability challenges with you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our offices in the Netherlands and the US.

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We look forward to being your partner in putting the metrics behind sustainability.

pre-sustainability.com

Those Who Have Gone Before – Market-leading Businesses That Are Creating Value From Sustainability Metrics

PRé has built a worldwide reputation as a leader on environmental and social impact assessment. We work with organisations and institutes such as the European Commission, European Space Agency, Heineken, BASF, Philips, L'Oréal and DSM.



L'ORÉAL



About PRé

PRé has been a leading voice in sustainability metrics and life cycle thinking, since 1990, pioneering the field of product and supply chain sustainability metrics. We've developed some of the world's most widely recognised and applied environmental impact assessment methods, as well as the world's leading LCA software, SimaPro. From the very first, we have not only focused on developing the science of LCA, but also its application – helping companies create value by using state-of-the-art measuring, monitoring and analysis methodologies to improve their sustainability performance.

Find out more about what we can do for your organisation at www.pre-sustainability.com

