4.4.4 LCA – Continuous training

An Action Plan for continuous training was carried out by Confindustria Veneto SIAV within the framework of a European Social Fund initiative "Networking for Competitiveness" financed by the Region of Veneto to support innovation for smart , sustainable and inclusive growth in manufacturing system.

The Action Plan: Steps and participants

The Action Plan had the objective to test the transferability of the submodule LCA developed by API and CVR in continuous training activities to other clusters and sectors.

The Head of Knowledge and Innovation Unit identified the regional ESF initiative as coherent with the module objectives. SIAV organised 6 workshops and 37 action research and action learning activities involving 37 companies and 197 participants within the project "Smart Innovation: application to the home appliances cluster".

Three sessions were organised in March and April 2015, with each session lasting 2 hours and it was then subsequently integrated into three workshop dedicated to smart and sustainable growth. 28 participants from 25 companies underwent a reduced version of the LCA module Level 3. Two trainers were selected from a certification organisation and an environmental services company. The selected trainers provided ad-hoc learning materials to introduce LCA and environmental communication tools, namely:
- environmental product declaration
- carbon footprint
- environmental claims
- case studies of energy efficiency and LCA applied to manufacturing processes.

The participants expressed their feedback through a dedicated questionnaire. The whole Action plan covered a five months time lapse.

Conclusions

The impact evaluation questionnaires and the informal feedbacks confirmed that the companies discovered LCA as a useful new issue to be included in continuous training, also through specific action learning activities. The reduced version proposed was considered sufficient to introduce the issue and raise awareness. Two out of the three sessions were evaluated against dedicated questionnaires, which structured results are available in chapter 4.6.