

The big question “is it sustainable?” is nowadays gradually becoming “**how much does it impact on the environment?**”. This is also taking place in the furniture industry and along the whole supply chain.

Indeed, companies are today mainly interested in translating this “how much” into a number for their product (being it a wood-based panel, a varnish can, furniture fronts, a chair...).

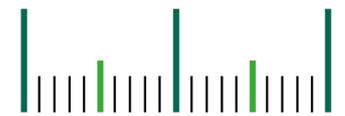
LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) is a standardized method (ISO 14040, ISO 14044) which allows the **measuring** of environmental issues due to a chosen product or service.

The outcome is indeed a measure given by a number and a unit of measurement, which is dependent upon data quality, traceability and analysis performed. For example, some of these “measurable” environmental issues are global warming, soil acidification and resource depletion (mineral or fossil).

An LCA study is normally presented in an **LCA report** which includes the description of product/service considered, gathered data, applied calculation method, presentation of the “measures” or environmental impacts and interpretation of the study.

An LCA study can be used internally, for example the comparison of two materials or processes used by the company, or it can be published by a **programme operator**, which is an institution that publishes the results of LCA studies on a web platform, freely consultable by operators and buyers.

## THE LIFE CYCLE



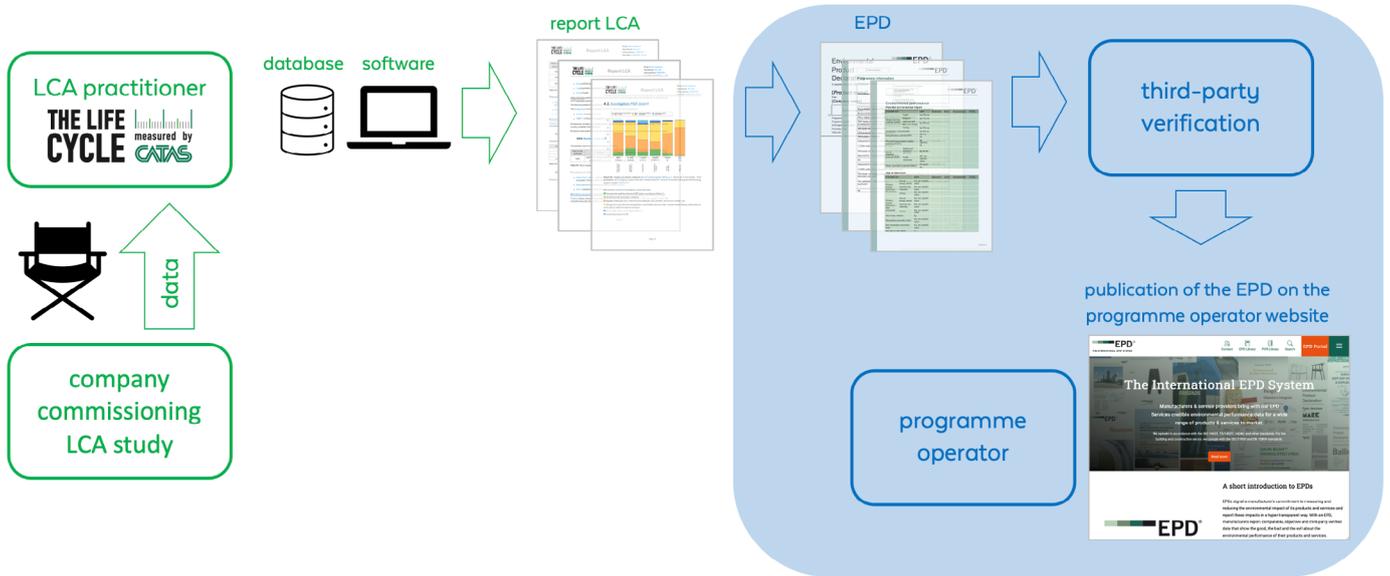
measured  
by **CATAS**



Obviously, for confidentiality reasons, the study is not published entirely, but only in a form of an abstract, containing product description, method used and results. This abstract is called **EPD (Environmental Product Declaration)**. For an example of published EPDs, you can visit the website of the most important European programme operator (International EPD System, [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com))

Before the EPD publication there is an additional step: the **third-party verification** by an accredited body who verifies the compliance of the LCA study to the international standards and guidelines of the programme operator.

Moreover, because of the study complexity and the need of dedicated software and databases, companies usually refer to an **LCA practitioner**, an advisor that analyses the data and writes the LCA report



**CATAS already has one year's experience as LCA practitioner**, helping industries with LCA studies, both for internal purposes (better understanding of materials and processes) and for EPD publication.

Typically, during an LCA study, CATAS supports industries through all these phases:

- Selection of product/service to be studied
- Production site visit and process flow definition
- Production data collection
- Data analysis
- Data modelling on dedicated software and results presentation
- Interpretation of results
- If needed, EPD preparation and support for third-party verification

If you are interested on LCA study, **CATAS can help you straight away!**

For further information, frame the QR code or contact us!



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