

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

In the context of the work that DG Environment is performing in collaboration with the European Commission's JRC IES on the development of a harmonised methodology for corporate environmental footprinting, DG Environment is now launching a call for volunteers.

This call aims to identify organisations (companies or consortia of companies, trade unions, professional bodies, etc.) of all sizes and from any sector in the EU that would like to support the European Commission in the testing of the draft methodology.

The objective of the testing phase is to provide lessons and feedback about the implementability of the draft methodology prepared by the JRC IES (added value, implementation barriers, costs, accessibility to SMEs, data confidentiality issues, etc). The methodology will cover aspects like the collection of data and the assessment of different environmental impacts, as well as the contents of the associated report.

Participation is on a voluntary basis. No funding will be available to support the participation of organisations for the testing phase.

Testing of the product environmental footprint methodology will take place in parallel. The guide on calculating product environmental footprint is needed for calculating the corporate environmental footprint. Therefore, participants in the corporate footprint case study shall participate also in the training for the implementation of the product environmental footprint methodology (foreseen in July 2011, date to be confirmed). Participants will then be able to start working on the product component of the methodology directly after the product footprint training. A separate training will be held in Brussels in October (planned for 13-15 October, date to be confirmed) which will focus on the additional elements in the corporate environmental footprint methodology.

Tests and reports will have to be completed by 29 February 2012. Some back-office support will also be provided during the testing phase.

Timetable :

- Until 13 May 2011: call for applications
- May-June 2011: selection of a sample group for testing (up to 10)
- 11-13 July 2011 (date to be confirmed): face-to-face training in Brussels for the product component
- 13-15 October 2011 (date to be confirmed): face-to-face training in Brussels for additional components
- July 2011 – February 2012: road testing performed
- First quarter of 2012: in-depth analysis of 3 selected pilot case study results

Target group for the call for volunteers:

This call for volunteers is addressed to both producers and service providers in the European Union. Single companies, group of companies, or federations/unions, operating in any sector may apply. Proposed analyses can cover all or part of the activities of the company (must be specified in the application).

Applications must be made using the downloadable [application form](#). Background information on the applicant and the sector is required.

Selection of a limited number of volunteers

Applications received by 13 May 2011 will be examined by European Commission services. Due to limited resources available and the tight timeline, a maximum of 10 participants will be chosen for the case studies. Selection criteria will be applied in order to ensure an appropriately representative sample group (i.e. type of company, type of sector, expected main environmental impacts, complexity of the value chain, etc).

Applicants willing to undertake trials of both the [product](#) and corporate environmental footprint methods will be preferentially considered.

The applications, the identity of applicants, and per default also the results of the pilot tests will remain confidential. Only the name of the companies participating in the pilot tests and the respective sectors will be announced through the dedicated web site. The results of the pilot studies may be published by the participating organisations, subject to a bilateral agreement with DG Environment.

The analysis of pilot tests

Each organisation performing a pilot test will have to submit a report drafted according to the template prepared by JRC IES. All reports will go through a preliminary assessment process, as a result of which 3 reports will be selected for in-depth analysis by the JRC IES.

In turn, these analyses will inform the revision of the first draft of the methodology for corporate environmental footprinting. The revision process will also be supported by the results of the other studies as far as appropriate and feasible.

Elements subject to full analysis will include issues such as data availability and accessibility, pilot costs, communication with stakeholders, uncertainty management, potential benefits and added value of the pilot, etc.

Requirements for organisations taking part in the testing phase

- The corporate environmental footprint methodology, as drafted by the JRC IES, shall be the only methodology used during the testing phase. No deviation from the methodology recommendations shall be taken without prior consent of JRC IES and DG Environment;
- The methodology for corporate environmental footprint is foreseen to be a stand-alone methodology. It is possible to refine its application through the use of Sectoral Footprint Guidelines (SFG) for the given sector, if available. However, even if such SFGs will not

be available at the time of testing, organisations volunteering to participate in the test phase will have access to a draft guideline describing how to prepare a SFG (i.e. describing the process but not the content). Participating organisations will have the possibility to either apply the methodology as it is, or to draft their own SFG (following the requirements and recommendations included in the JRC IES guide "How to develop SFGs"), or to use existing similar instruments, but cross-checking their provisions to ensure alignment with the JRC IES guide.

- Organisations participating in the pilot tests shall agree to provide JRC IES with all the necessary inventory data in a timely and coherent manner. The data will be used by JRC IES, if necessary under a confidentiality agreement, and only for the analysis of the test results.
- All documentation associated with the tests must be provided in English.