Clim'Foot

LAYMAN'S REPORT
2015 - 2018

IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC POLICIES TO
CALCULATE AND REDUCE
ORGANISATIONS' CARBON FOOTPRINT

www.climfoot-project.eu

LIFE14 GIC/FR/000475

With the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Commission

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

Duration : September 2015 - August 2018 (36 months)
Budget : € 1 471 767
EU's Contribution : € 883 060

COORDINATOR

ADEME
Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES

Institut de Formation Carbone

EIHP
Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar

HERMAN OTTÓ INTÉZET NONPROFIT KFT.

ecoinnovazione
spin off ENEA

ENEA

ΚΑΠΕ CRES

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The LIFE programme is the **EU's funding instrument** for the **environment** and **climate action.** The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policies and legislation by **co-financing projects** with European added value.
The European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate Action) manages the LIFE programme. The Commission has entrusted the implementation of a number of areas of the LIFE programme to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). External selection, monitoring and communication teams provide assistance to the Commission and EASME.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE **CLIM'FOOT PROJECT**

The LIFE Clim'Foot project aims to address the lack of ambitious public policies supporting the harmonised calculation and reduction of the Carbon Footprint of organisations (CFO).

The LIFE Clim'Foot project targets CFO as it is one of the most well-known environmental indicators and has established assessment methodologies. Clim'Foot is an initiative for developing a global approach with an organisational environ-mental footprint initiative.

The first step of the project is to develop the methods and tools needed to implement national public policies and improve the skills of all stakeholders in CFO assessment and management (e.g. training, emission factor database, CFO calculation tool, methodology to develop, implement, and monitor GHG emission reduction action plans).

In order to foster the implementation of national public policies for calculating and reducing CFO, national voluntary programmes were implemented in all participating countries, including the support to a limited number of organization in CFO calculation and mitigation actions/plan design, with the use of tools developed during the project

Moreover, a specific dissemination campaign is currently implemented, with major aim to replicate the project actions in other countries.

CONTEXT

The climate is changing

The global average temperature has increased by approximately 0.85°C in the last 120 years due to human activities, mainly burning fossil fuels, cutting down rainforests, and livestock farming[1]. Scientists consider an increase of 2°C compared to pre-industrial temperatures as the threshold beyond which the likelihood/risk of dangerous and possibly catastrophic events is very high. The impact of this climate change will have knock-on effects on our lives and on the planet regarding access to energy and water, geo-strategic equilibria, population movements, ecosystem changes, etc. Limiting the extent of climate change requires policies to mitigate the greenhouse effect and implementing actions giving priority to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sinks.

For this reason, 195 countries agreed on a global action plan to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015. Unfortunately, the national climate action plans presented in Paris are not sufficient to reach this target, but demonstrate a necessary trend to follow.

Mitigation of climate change requires the **involvement of all political and economic actors**, including public and private organisations and policy makers (European, national and local).

European Union commitments

For several years, the European Union has adopted objectives and developed tools to reduce the impact of climate change and to guide Member States towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy.

In particular, these objectives are defined by the 2020 climate & energy package, which is a set of binding legislative acts to ensure the EU meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Adopted in 2008, the package is currently under revision.

The European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS or EU ETS) is the EU's main tool for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Created in 2005, it imposes a direct emissions cap on the most emitting sectors and covers around 45% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions.

2030 Energy Strategy targets:

- **40%** cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels.
- at least a **27%** share of renewable energy consumption.
- at least **27%** energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.

As only the direct GHG emissions of the most polluting industries are covered by the EU ETS, it will not be sufficient to achieve European objectives.

No common framework has been proposed to involve less polluting organisations (more numerous and more dispersed than heavy energy-using facilities)....

...for which **evaluation of indirect emissions is of high importance** to reduce their global environmental footprint. 70% of the carbon footprint of the organisations not included in the ETS system being constituted of indirect emissions.

Due to the complexity of assessing indirect emissions, only a few national public policies have been implemented worldwide even though organisations are requesting such schemes and support. Reliable data, tools and methodologies need to be provided to develop policies and involve private and public organisations in reducing their carbon footprint.

[1] Source: European Commission

THE CLIM'FOOT PROJECT

Objectives

The LIFE Clim'Foot project aims to address the lack of ambitious public policies to support the harmonised calculation and reduction of the Carbon Footprint of Organisations (CFO).

Clim'Foot is the first step in developing a global approach for an organisational environmental footprint initiative.

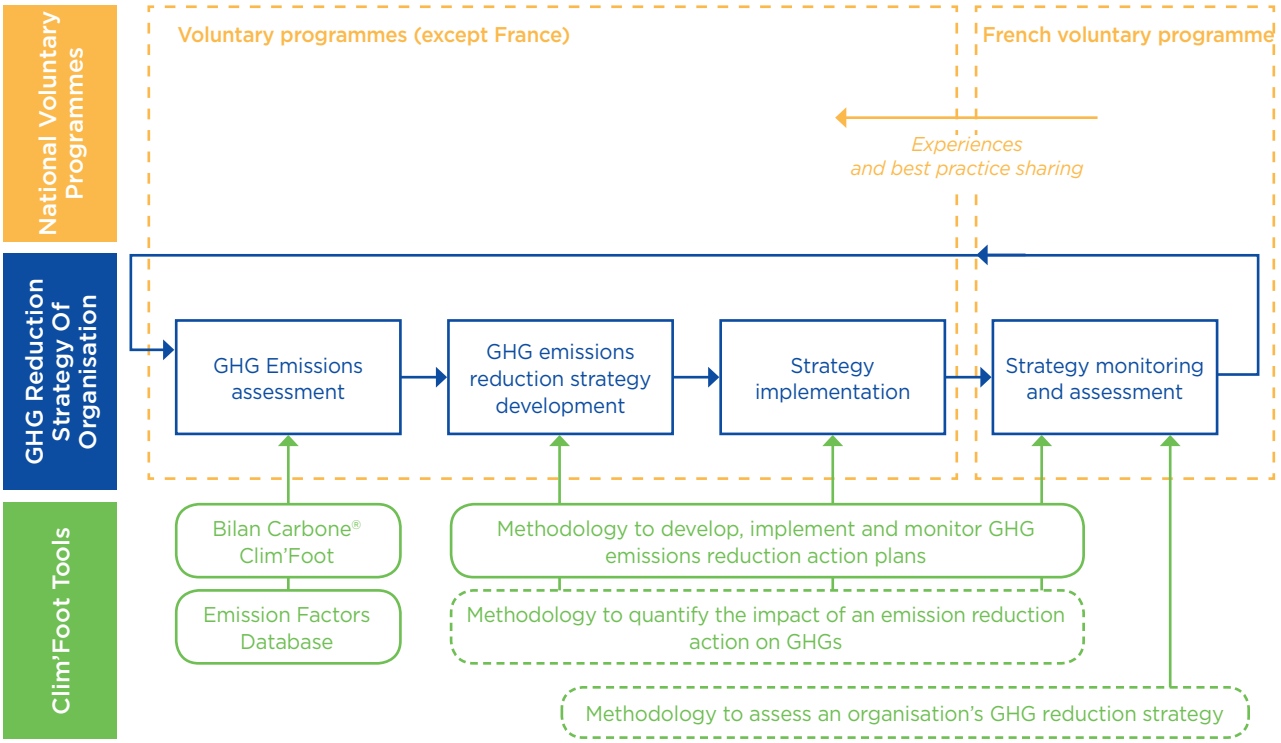
Specific objectives

- Launch a dynamic European network around CFO, in accordance with EU initiatives.
- Develop country-specific and free of charge emission factor databases.
- Develop a capacity building programme to train end-users in the implementation of public policies for calculating and reducing CFO to achieve EU climate objectives.
- Bring the entire value chain - from policy makers to investors - together around EU organisations to implement efficient mitigation plans that will both improve their carbon footprint and boost their competitiveness.
- Launch a web-based platform to optimise the replication potential of the project.

Methodologies

- Development of methods and tools required to implement national public policies and improve the skills of all stakeholders in CFO assessment and management.
- Implementation of voluntary programmes to support both public and private organisations in calculating and reducing their carbon footprint in the five partner countries. These voluntary programmes are a demonstration phase to test the tools developed since the beginning of the project.

Clim'Foot and the GHG reduction strategy



CLIM'FOOT TOOLS

Reducing the GHG emissions of European organisations requires not only the mobilisation of these key players but also the involvement and support of local policy makers and investors.

This is why the tools and methodologies developed during the Clim'Foot project target all the stakeholders in the CFO value chain.

ORGANISATIONS

POLICY MAKERS

INVESTORS

METHODOLOGY TO CONSTITUTE NATIONAL DATABASES OF COUNTRY-SPECIFIC EMISSION FACTORS (EF)

The guide aims to provide common specifications for constituting national EFs databases. A common methodology is required to foster the use of the standardized methodology for CFO calculation in Europe.

CLIM'FOOT EMISSION FACTORS DATABASE

5 national databases were developed under Clim'Foot project in Italy, Greece, Hungary, Croatia and France. These database includes at least 1 200 emission factors and covers a range of sectors, including energy production, freight and passenger transport and purchase of goods (e.g. glass, cardboard, metal, and chemicals).

TRAINING TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF CLIM'FOOT PARTICIPATORS IN CFO ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

These training modules have been developed to integrate the observed best practices and the learning needs of beneficiaries and are adapted to national contexts and different targets (national policy makers and end-users in organisations).

CLIM'FOOT COOPERATION PLATFORM

The role of this platform is to centralise Clim'Foot tools and optimise project dissemination. The platform provides a detailed description of the project, news about Clim'Foot and its partners, CFO training/ tools, access to the EF database and descriptions of voluntary programmes.
Stakeholders interested in joining the project can contact the Clim'Foot team through this platform.

CLIM'FOOT TOOLBOXES

Two toolboxes have been created: one for policy makers and another for private and public organisations.

ACT
METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS AN ORGANISATION'S GHG REDUCTION STRATEGY

The Assessing Low-Carbon Transition (ACT) methodology (methodology to assess an organisation's GHG reduction strategy) has been adapted to France's context and was tested by private organisations during the French voluntary programme. The climate strategies of these 29 companies were rated and GHG reduction plan improvements were provided to two representative organisations among them; these improvements were then shared with Clim'Foot project partners.

METHODOLOGY TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR GHG EMISSION REDUCTION ACTION PLANS

This methodology provides an operational method demonstrating the steps to follow to develop, implement and monitor a reduction action plan for GHG emissions related to the activities of an organisation.
A methodology to quantify the impact of an emission reduction action on GHGs has been provided to Clim'Foot partners

BC BILAN CARBONE®

BILAN CARBONE® CLIM'FOOT TOOL

The Bilan Carbone® Clim'Foot tool is a simplified Excel file which allows the user to collect activity data and estimate GHG emissions generated by the organisation. This calculator is based on the French Bilan Carbone® methodology.
The calculator was made available to partners for use in the Clim'Foot voluntary programme. Special efforts have been made to translate and adapt this tool to national contexts and upload their national EFs database.

CLIM'FOOT KEY FIGURES

TOOLBOXES

5
Toolboxes developed under the Clim'Foot project

5 National training material on CFO management

4 CFO calculation tools adapted to the context of each partner country

EF DATABASE

5
National databases of emission factors

1 066
Country-specific EFs included in the Clim'Foot database

156 in France
173 in Greece
172 in Croatia
383 in Hungary
182 in Italy

151
European EFs included in the Clim'Foot database

TRAINING

306
People trained in CFO assessement and management under the project

74 Private organisations involved in training sessions

35 Public organisations

13 On-site training sessions in the 5 countries

CFO CALCULATION AND MANAGEMENT

77
Organisations involved in the voluntary programme in the 5 countries

26 Public organisations

51 Private organisations

48 Carbon footprints calculated

29 Organisations assessed their maturity level regarding carbon footprint management

12 Organisations interested to define a mitigation plan

5 Mitigation plans developed before the end of the project

DISSEMINATION

3
Webinars and worshops for policy makers in May and June 2018

13 Policy makers attented the workshop in June 2018

36 Policy makers attended in the 2 webinars

14 Countries represented

7
Partners from 5 EU Member States

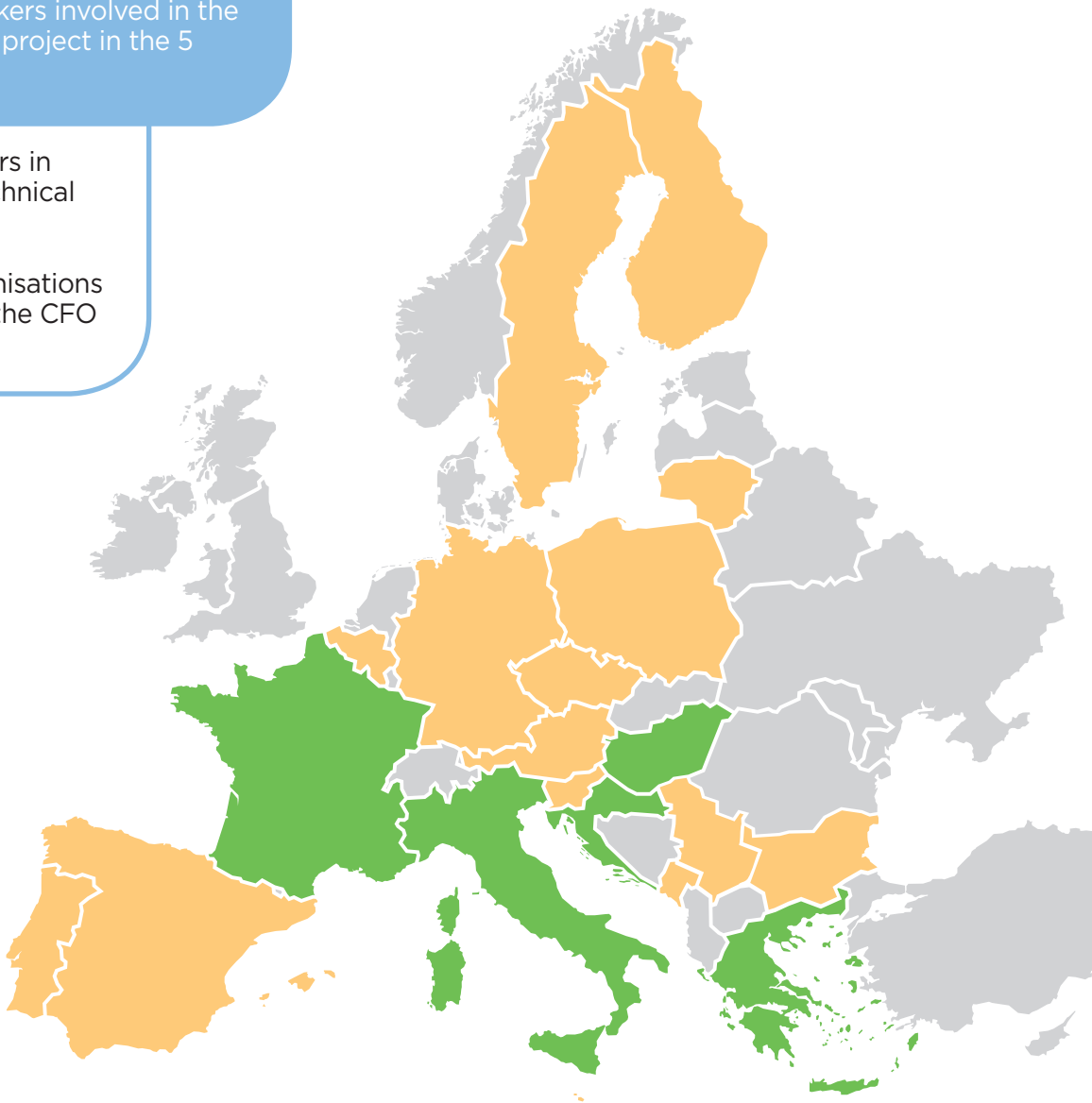
CLIM'FOOT CONSORTIUM

POLICY MAKERS

59
Policy makers involved in the Clim'Foot project in the 5 countries

44 Policy makers in National technical committee

15 Public organisations involved in the CFO calculation



IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Before the end of the project, the partners conducted an evaluation of the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project. This monitoring aims to identify the benefits of the project for all the project stakeholders (partners, policy makers and end-users) and to encourage organisations in Europe to engage CFO calculation and to implement mitigation actions.

Environmental impacts

A first environmental monitoring focused the project actions. The aim of this evaluation was to determine which environmental components are most exposed to the project activities and to identify actions in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the project. **Over the three years of the project, all activities performed by partners generated about 170 tonnes of carbon-dioxide-equivalent (CO_2eq.).** Two thirds of the total is related to transportation of people. The remaining of the emissions is related equaly to energy consumption in partners' offices and purchases of products and services.

A second monitoring focused on the environmental impacts of the action defined in the voluntary programme to analyse the amount of GHG emission avoided as a result of the Clim'Foot project. Mitigation actions defined by organisations in France, Hungary and Italy represent a **reduction potential of 14,323 tonnes of CO_2eq.**

Economic impacts for end-users

The participation to the voluntary programme has required investments in terms of time and resources by the companies involved. According the monitoring of the economic impact of the Clim'Foot project, **organisations in Croatia, Hungary and Italy invested 46,249 € in low carbon project**.

One the other hand, CFO management enables organisations to identify saving potential (in terms of materials or energy savings). Thanks to the Clim'Foot project, **economic benefits identified by Croatian and Hungarian organisations amounted to 66,000 €**.

Social impacts for end-users

Considering the harmonization of the European skills for carbon accounting was a significant target of the project, the beneficiaries implemented a set of specific actions in order to evaluate the improvement of stakeholders' skills. The evaluation was performed at two different levels: policy makers in charge of implementing the EU climate legislation and end-users.

The methodology assigns each end-users a score based on their skill improvement (on a scale ranging from 0 to 5). **In the voluntary programme, the mean score was 3,3**.

DISSEMINATION

Dissemination of Clim'Foot tools and methodology is a major part of the project. One of the project's key objectives is to foster the development of common methodologies and standard databases to calculate CFO Europe-wide.

Clim'Foot partners studied the project replication and transferability potential to other European countries. The situation in various countries was analysed to identify countries which might be interested in replicating the project.

Clim'Foot partners have already approached European policy makers in order to foster the replicability of the whole project approach in other countries:

- Two webinars were held on 15 and 18 May 2018. The purpose of these one-hour online sessions was to present the main findings of the Clim'Foot project. Some 40 policy makers from 19 countries attended these first two webinars.
- A special workshop on June 2018, in occasion of the final conference. It targets policy makers inside and outside the consortium and focuses on steps and needed efforts to replicate the project actions, with particular reference to the voluntary programme.

The European network initiated by the Clim'Foot project is provided through the platform and social networks (Twitter and LinkedIn).

Policy makers interested in implementing the Clim'Foot project for CFO calculation and reduction in their country are invited to contact the Clim'Foot team through the platform.

@ClimFoot

"The Clim'Foot community: building a low-carbon Europe"

KEY LESSONS FROM THE PROJECT

Based on the results and feedbacks of the Clim'Foot project, recommendations can be addressed, first, to policy-makers who would like to implement public policy to calculate and reduce CFO, then, to end-users to encourage them to calculate and manage their CFO.

What are the main conditions for the success of a public policy to calculated and reduce CFO?

- The project must be managed by a public organization which have close relations with politics/ government and good relations with end-users (companies, public authorities, etc.). The national or regional policy toward climate change is also important for the development of such a carbon policy or the launching of a voluntary programme.
- A national EF database has to be developed first to allow end-users to calculate their carbon footprint and Clim'Foot tools have to be adapted to the national context.
- A strong support and a good communication with the end-users are essential parts of the project because most of organisations are not prepared and do not have a good understanding of what CFO means.
- Project teams have to be trained to energy and climate challenges, to methodology principles of CFO accounting, etc. Training material is available on the platform.

What is the interest for an organisation to calculate and manage its CFO?

- The calculation and management of the CFO is an additional tool for organisations wishing to initiate or go further in a sustainable development process.
- CFO is primarily an environmental indicator, but the CFO assessment can also lead an organisation to review its risk management strategy (related to end-users' expectations, investors rating criterias, fossil fuel dependency, etc.)
- CFO also allows identifying business opportunities (cost reduction, product design or redesign, innovation for product / services / business model).
- Thanks to Clim'Foot tools, an organisation already involved in a sustainable development policy can quantify the results of this policy. For instance, such an organisation could provide their customers with key figures about its sustainability achievements.

CONTACT

climfoot.contact@ademe.fr

For a country specific question:

France	ADEME, philippe.masset@ademe.fr
	IFC, francois.kornmann@if-carbone.com
Greece	CRES, lpapamik@cres.gr
Croatia	EIHP, zjuric@eihp.hr
Hungary	HOI, riesz.lorant@hoi.hu
Italy	ENEA, simona.scalbi@enea.it
	Ecoinnovazione, smart-eco@ecoinnovazione.it

ADEME provides expertise and advisory services to businesses, local authorities and communities, government bodies and the public, to enable them to develop and consolidate their environmental action.

CRES is the Greek national entity for the promotion of renewable energy sources, rational use of energy and energy saving. CRES has been appointed as the national co-ordination centre in its area of activity. Its main goal is the national and international research and promotion of RES/RUE/ES applications, as well as the support of related activities, taking the principles of sustainable development into consideration.

The **Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP)** cooperates with Croatian, regional and EU institutions on developing sustainable energy, taking into account the environmental and climate protection into account.

Herman Ottó Institute Nonprofit Ltd. (HOI) provides professional assistance and services to the Ministry of Agriculture in Hungary and supports knowledge based governance in the fields of environmental protection, nature conservation and agricultural vocational training.

ENEA is a public research organisation that also provides consultancy services for enterprises, Public Authorities and the Central Government in the fields of new technologies, energy and sustainable development.

IFC is the first European Training Institute dedicated to energy and climate issues. It provides training on methodologies and tools to representatives of public and private organisations.

Ecoinnovazione Srl is a consultancy firm, set up as an ENEA spin-off, supporting both private and public sectors in implementing eco-innovation processes with flexible and tailored solutions using of life cycle-based methods and tools.

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