Executive Summary on the outcomes of EeBGuide

As new buildings now consume about the same amount of energy during an average 50 year lifespan as it is necessary to build them, new assessment methodologies encompassing the whole life cycle of building are required. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies are being used more and more by leading practitioners as a means of demonstrating the ”whole life” energy efficiency of buildings. LCA studies analyse the impact of products, processes or services along the entire life cycle, which makes it a powerful tool to help companies to optimise the ecological footprint of their products. In Europe, building LCAs are the foundation of many building certification schemes as well as of Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for construction products, yet the metrics and standards currently used in Europe can be interpreted and implemented in many different ways leading to inconsistencies and lack of comparability. This situation formed the basis for the EU research project “EeBGuide” (Operational Guidance for Life Cycle Assessment studies of the Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative). Within EeBGuide the following outcomes were obtained:

* EeBGuide Guidance Document – Part A: Products and Part B: Buildings

The documents give guidance and define methods and provisions to conduct life cycle assessment studies within the framework of the Energy-Efficient Building European Initiative (E2B EI). It is intended for use by LCA practitioners within research projects of the E2B Public Private Partnership and shall give advice for any LCA study to be compiled within the EU.

* Info Hub

The EeBGuide Info Hub serves as a central information hub for researchers and pracitioners doing LCA studies related to the “Energy efficient Buildings Public Private Partnership (EeB Initiative)”. The website provides a dedicated access point for the corresponding handbook sections and exemplary LCA study reporting templates.

* Training materials in three languages

Education and training materials were developed and prepared. The training material is provided in English, French and Spanish to make the guidance application easier.

* Excel and Word reporting templates for LCA reports of products and buildings

Generic LCA report templates are provided on the website to simplify and ease the effort for reporting.

* Video tutorial

Within the EeBGuide two video tutorials were set up. The first one provides an introduction to the project and a short summary of the website and InfoHub. The second one provides a more detailed introduction to the project including a description of how the guidance was developed. It also explains how the guidance works.

All in all the outcomes of EeBGuide support LCA practitioners in their daily work but also have impact on pursuing concepts such as the product environmental footprint (PEF) or harmonization tendencies like the ECO platform.