

# Sustainable Construction in Public and Private Works through IPP approach



## Newsletter – Issue N°1 (April 2006)

**SUSCON** is a LIFE – Environment project (LIFE 05 ENV/GR/000235) aiming at the adoption and application of “sustainable construction” concept in the practices of construction industries, engineering consulting companies which draft technical specification of civil works, public authorities which issue technical tenders, suppliers of construction materials and other stakeholders involved in this field.

### Project Partners:






- National Technical University of Athens (School of Chemical Engineering)
- EDRASIS C. PSALLIDAS S.A.
- EPTA Ltd. – Environmental Consultants Engineers
- University of Cyprus (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- CYBARCO Ltd.
- Technical Chamber of Cyprus



## SUSCON Project

The SUSCON project is expected to be the catalyst for Greek and Cypriot construction industries, public authorities and other stakeholders to get familiar with environmental aspects of construction, evaluate the environmental performance of specific works, promote more environmentally friendly products and services and introduce environmental benchmarking in the construction sector.

The project lasts for three years and its main objectives include:

-  Review of the construction activity in Greece and Cyprus and assessment of the environmental impacts
-  Implementation of the Life Cycle Analysis methodology in two construction categories
-  Assessment of all the ecodesign issues towards the ecodesign of a construction and development of ecodesign criteria
-  Evaluation of the environmental performance of the participating construction companies, through the use of ecodesign criteria
-  Creation of an online database regarding sustainable construction for the construction industry

[www.uest.gr/suscon/](http://www.uest.gr/suscon/)

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## Editorial

The concept of sustainable development adopted by the construction sector results to sustainable construction. The construction sector, which is considered to be the most significant productive branch in the European Union, is able to determinatively contribute to the improvement of the environmental performance and the introduction of sustainable dimension in our everyday life. The development of ecodesign criteria, which is the main objective of the SUSCON project, will take into account all the life cycle phases and will comprise a significant move towards the reduction of the environmental impacts related to raw material and energy consumption, waste production and air emissions.



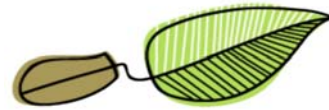
## The Project Tasks

The project tasks can be summarized below:

- Analysis and documentation of the construction sector in Greece and Cyprus. In the framework of this task all the activities of the construction sector in the two countries will be identified, national data will be collected and analyzed and the environmental impacts from each sector will be assessed.
- Life Cycle Analysis in two construction activities. The task involves the selection of two categories from the construction activities of the public and private sector and the collection of data for the creation of a Life Cycle Inventory, so that the Life Cycle Analysis methodology can be implemented.

- Development of ecodesign criteria. In the framework of this task, all the ecodesign issues towards the ecodesign of a construction will be assessed and ecodesign criteria will be developed.
- Application of ecodesign criteria in construction. After the assessment of the ecodesign criteria used in the construction works by the two participating companies, a software tool for estimating the eco-friendly percentage of construction works will be produced. Following that, the tool will be applied to the participating companies and will be distributed to all public and private stakeholders.
- Online database for the construction industry. The online database that is expected to be created will provide environmental information about construction to Greek, Cypriot and other EU stakeholders. The significance of this database lies to the environmental raise awareness of the construction industries.

# Progress of the Project



**R**egarding the progress of the project during the first six months, the following actions have been realized:

## Publicity

**R**egarding the publicity of the project, its official web page has been created, which is already available in the Greek and English version (<http://www.uest.gr/suscon/>).

## Kick-off meeting

**I**n October 2005, the kick-off meeting between the partners of the project took place, during which the actions of the project were planned.



## Advisory Board establishment

**I**n the framework of the project an Advisory Board was established for each of the participating countries, in which representatives from governmental organizations and independent services, academic and research institutes, academic associations and environmental and consumer organizations were invited. The Advisory Board will meet every six months and will monitor the project progress. The first meeting of the Advisory Board is expected to take place during the months April and May in both countries.

## Analysis of the construction sector

**I**n the framework of this action, the collection and analysis of the national data from Greece and Cyprus has been completed. In addition, a review of the activities of the construction sector in both countries has been conducted.

The main output of the review was that the residential construction dominates in the private sector, while the construction of roads leads in the public sector. The review was followed by a rough assessment of the environmental impacts raising by each building category, as well as the construction of roads in Greece and Cyprus.

## Best practices of ecodesign

**A**s the environmental impacts of the construction sector become more apparent, due to the increased construction activity, sustainable development and eco-design lead the way to reduce the impact at the source and create a healthier construction model. In the framework of the project, a report on international best practices regarding eco-design in the construction sector was conducted and the most important tools for environmental impact assessment were collected.

# Future Actions

The action plan of the project up to October 2006 includes the following actions:

## First Meeting of the Advisory Board

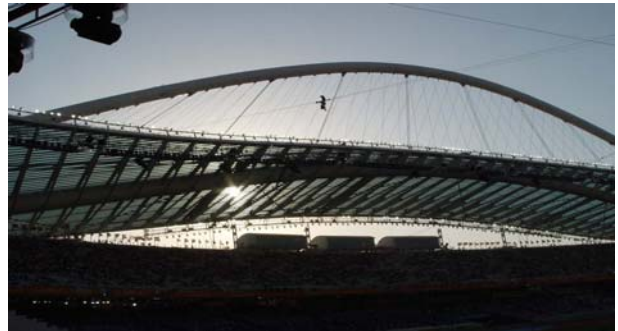
In April 2006, the first meeting of the Advisory Board will take place in Cyprus, in the facilities of the University of Cyprus. In this meeting, among other issues, the actions of the project and the role of the Advisory Board will be discussed. The corresponding meeting of the Board in Greece is expected to take place in May 2006.

## Second Project Meeting

In May 2006 the second meeting between the project partners is going to take place in Cyprus, in order for the project progress to be assessed and the next actions to be planned.

## Life Cycle Analysis

Based on the review of the construction activity in Greece and Cyprus, which has already been completed, the selection of two categories from the construction activity will follow, according to their environmental impacts. For the two categories, the Life Cycle Analysis methodology will be implemented, so that the effects they have on the environment can be evaluated over the entire period of their life.



*For more information, you can visit the project website:*  
[www.uest.gr/suscon/](http://www.uest.gr/suscon/)

