



Dear Reader,

COTANCE, Europe's Tanner's umbrella organisation in Brussels, is engaged in the IND ECO project because it believes in energy efficiency as a means to an improved competitiveness in industry. Indeed, why spend more energy for doing a thing if you can do the same with less?

And you will also spend less! Staying abreast of energy-saving technology improvements serves sustainable development. This is a win-win game for Europe's enterprises, and the IND ECO Project allows our partnership to promote this message widely in the leather and footwear sectors.

This Newsletter is one of the instruments that our IND ECO Partnership uses for explaining what we do in this initiative and how companies can take advantage from it. There are lots of enthusiastic experts in our group ready to share with you their knowledge and make you feel comfortable in taking the right decisions. Don't hesitate to circulate widely this Newsletter so that as many companies in the leather and footwear sectors get to know this initiative. Think, we have the potential to reduce altogether 771 million primary KWh in energy savings and reducing consequently our energy bills!

IND ECO is aware that asking SME's to invest today an amount even as low as 15000 Euro faces many challenges. Even a very short payback period is not always a convincing argument. Companies look at the productivity of every single Euro. Because of the adverse economic momentum, their priority goes to investments that have the potential to secure more business before those in cost reduction. IND ECO realises that money is in short supply these days and on April 11, IND ECO is to address this issue. It will hold a Workshop in Brussels especially on that hot subject. It will present the mechanisms that Europe uses to facilitate SME's access to finance and showcase a number of best practices in this field. The results will be then disseminated among others through this Newsletter.

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[http://www.lbl.gov/Workplace/CFO/Travel\\_Express/archive/TE\\_spring09/index.html](http://www.lbl.gov/Workplace/CFO/Travel_Express/archive/TE_spring09/index.html)

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# Ind-Eco Workshop in Brussels

11 April 2013

Next 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013 will be held the first international workshop of Ind-Eco Project in Brussels (Belgium). In this workshop the participants will focus on the needs of SMEs and financial operators and opportunities. The project aims to empower the relationship with financial key actors at different levels -European, National, and Regional.

After the meeting the workshop contents will be made available thank to an audio-video registration and presentations will be collected.

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*16 European partners are implementing a project named IND – ECO “Industry Alliance for reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions” sponsored by the European Commission (EACI Agency) within “Intelligent Energy Europe”.*

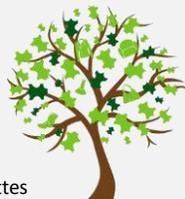
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## Energy efficiency measures

Inventory on energy consumption and CO2 emissions: Footwear and Leather INVENTORY TOOL – Knowing your energetic behavior could help you to produce more sustainable and clean articles.

Footwear Inventory is already online: <http://indecotcp.pt/default.asp?tab=1>  
On it you can be aware of your consumption about:

- Electricity
- Fuel-oil
- Gasoline
- Diesel oil
- Propane gas
- Natural gas
- Firewood, briquettes
- Powdered cork



Visit our Ind-Eco Website and find more information about the project:

<http://www.ind-ecoefficiency.eu/>

## INDECO Project: Aims & Objectives

### Industry alliance for reducing energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emission (Ind-Eco)

The climatic change is one of the central worldwide challenges of our society. According to EU energy saving action plan 2011, the primary aims of this project are to obtain initial primary energy savings by its end and to create favorable conditions for much more investments by 2020

With all this in mind the project has four primary objectives:

- Identifying, by means of energy auditing, the main areas where energy efficiency can be implemented in tanneries and in the leather value chain;
- Identifying the best technical and technological solutions available in the domestic and European context to reach higher levels of energy efficiency;
- Reaching agreements with economic and financial operators at a European, national and local level, to facilitate corporate access to finance needed to invest in energy efficiency;
- Tutoring the companies in the development of energy efficiency investment plans.

The project is formed by seven Work packages to overcome the barriers of information and of capital access according to EU energy saving action plan 2011.

The European umbrella association and national associations from most relevant countries for leather and leather productions, technical centers, engineering companies and manufacturers join together in a very well balanced and representative partnership.

## Interview: Energy Audit from the point of view of the Auditors



**Sandra Allepuz Marhuenda** has spent 10 years working as a technical expert in the Environment Department of the Footwear Technological Institute (INESCOP), in Spain, developing and carrying out various environmental activities related to harmful substances, environmental legislation, clean technologies, energy efficiency, eco-design, eco-labelling, Environmental Management Systems (EMS), environmental noise, etc.



**Romano Selva** is working in SOGESCA where his tasks are mainly focused on energy issues. In addition to European projects, my work covers industrial energy audits and training courses in energy subjects.



### ➤ Explain to us, in simple terms, what an energy audit consists of?

An energy audit is an independent, systematic and documented process in order to identify economical energy/cost saving measures that do not adversely affect the quality of work/product and the environmental consequences of the equipment and processes but also to:

- Acquire reliable knowledge of energy consumption and the associated costs.
- Identify and characterise the factors which affect energy consumption
- Detect and evaluate the different opportunities for savings, energy efficiency and diversification improvements, and their repercussions in energy and maintenance costs, as well as other associated benefits and costs.

“Energy audit is a needed step in implementation of any detailed and sizable energy efficiency project”

Often there will be the need for engineering design before implementation/ construction of the project.

Mainly there is two kind of energy audit:

**A Investment grade audit**, which is intended to identify all energy efficiency opportunities in a facility, or a more targeted audit which focuses on a specific piece of equipment or process, e.g. lighting, a boiler, a drying process, compressed air system. The output of this kind of audit it's a

detailed feasibility study which allow identifying technical and economic parameters in order to evaluate and realize investments. In tannery sector, an investment grade audit has been performed for the feasibility study of a cogeneration plant in order to produce electricity and steam.

**Walk-through audit**, it is realized by a person or a team with a deep knowledge in energy efficiency issues, who walks through along the facility and identifies simple and standard energy efficiency measures such as lighting replacement, light and occupancy sensors, and high efficiency motors. In tannery, a typical evaluation at “walk through” level has been performed for electric motor and lighting systems.

### ➤ How long could it take?

The duration of an energy audit depends on the detail with which it is carried out and the kind of audit; ranging from a few weeks to a few months, therefore it implies visits to the company, the collection of data, analysing the information and the proposal of improvements, drawing conclusions and compiling a final audit report to be sent to the client.

Basically, regarding the two types of audit we commented before, **Investment grade audit**: Typically, for a medium size tannery an investment grade audit takes at least two days for

the “on site” audit, and then other days for “back office” activities

Then, a **walk through audit** for a tannery facility takes a single day for the “on site” audit, and another one for “back office” activities

There are also other factors that can have an influence on the audit duration, such as the site size, the production process carried out, etc. In addition, each auditor, using their experience, is adapting and developing their own working methodology that can bring a shorter or longer duration as a consequence.

#### ➤ **What are the issues that can arise in an audit?**

In an energy audit, there are a lot of areas for improvement that can be detected, with regards to topics as diverse as the energy supplier, isolation of the building, natural light in the building, equipment operation, etc.

In the footwear sector it has been noticed that sometimes companies are fined based on a lower energy contract than they really use. This can be resolved quickly and easily which will bring about an immediate reduction in their energy costs. Likewise, inefficient, old and second hand machinery is often identified, as well as insufficient maintenance and servicing, scarce thermal insulation, scarce utilization of natural light, etc.

#### ➤ **Any tips for enterprises before being audited**

Usually, the first audit which takes place in a company will give quick results, highlighting the existing energy losses and this can also help to introduce the first corrective actions immediately.

For the footwear sector, as a general piece of advice, we can point out that before an energy audit, it is very useful to keep an adequate information organisational system up to date and, in this way, provide all necessary documentation and information to the auditor (find the electricity, gasoil, etc. consumption data from at least the last year, the associated costs, the various plans and projects on site (electricity, air conditioning, compressed air, etc.), as well as finding and making the technical information of machinery available for consultation. A good **collection of energy bills** and some functional

diagram allow the auditor to understand the level of energy consumption and where it’s employed. Giving details about quantitative indicator of production is very useful in order to create specific indicator of energy demand per unit of production.

#### ➤ **How is the energy auditor welcomed in the enterprise?**

In general, the reception is positive as the company identifies the auditor as someone who will help them reduce their energy costs (it should be highlighted that the main reason why companies choose to carry out energy audits is for the economic savings) and its impact on budget is growing dramatically.

Also, the completion of energy audits requires the establishment of a good relationship between the audited company’s personnel and the auditor in order to make the transfer of data smoother.

#### ➤ **Any other comments regarding the energy audit**

The primary objective of an energy audit is to improve energy efficiency and, in fact, the audit itself is not the truly important part, it is actually the tangible results of the corrective actions taken as a result of the audit.

**ECO<sub>2</sub>L – is the world’s first label for energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a tannery**



In this century the climatic change is one of the central worldwide challenges of our society. To reduce the risks of the global warming on people and nature, the average temperature rise must be limited considerably worldwide until the end of the century.

The German Leather Federation felt obliged to this commitment as well and presents with the ECO<sub>2</sub>L label (energy controlled leather) the world’s first calculation and auditing model for determining the energy efficiency and the CO<sub>2</sub>-emission of a tannery. ECO<sub>2</sub>L was developed by the Forschungsgemeinschaft Leder (Leather Research Foundation) as an active contribution of a responsible leather industry towards climate protection and as a significant aspect to evaluate a sustainable leather production.

The ECO<sub>2</sub>L certificate is assigned by the independent Forschungsinstitut für Leder- und Kunststoffbahnen gGmbH (FILK). Auditing is conducted on behalf of FILK by independent, officially appointed auditors.

In orientation as a comparison of the “Best Available Techniques for the Tanning of Hides and Skins” specified by the EU, towards the benchmark BEET establishes a strict standard reference value for the energy consumption of all production processes at a location within defined limits.

Further information in: <http://www.eco2l-leather.com/>