



What we aim to achieve

ECOSTEP works to support the transition towards more sustainable, circular and transparent footwear in Europe by:

1. **Developing** ecodesign criteria for footwear products, covering durability, reparability, recyclability and material efficiency.
2. **Creating** standardised testing methods to evaluate product performance and sustainability.
3. **Building** an AI-powered digital platform integrating Life Cycle -Assessment and predictive analytics.
4. **Supporting** Digital Product Passport implementation to improve data quality, traceability and transparency across the footwear value chain.
5. **Providing** training and guidances for SMEs, manufacturers, professionals and policymakers

Project Coordinators

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Redesigning Footwear for a Circular Future

Design. Test. Trace. Transform.

ECOSTEP combines ecodesign, standardised testing, AI-powered tools and a footwear-specific Digital Product Passport to support a more circular and sustainable European footwear sector.



What is ECOSTEP?

ECOSTEP is a 48-month Horizon Europe project developing and validating an integrated ecodesign strategy for the footwear sector.

Covering open shoes, closed shoes and boots, the project combines testing methods, circular design guidance, AI analytics and a sector-specific Digital Product Passport.

Its solutions will help companies assess environmental performance, improve product design and respond to evolving EU sustainability requirements.

ECOSTEP INNOVATION

1. Ecodesign Framework

A standardised framework covering key parameters such as durability, reparability, recyclability, material use and chemical safety

2. ECOSTEP Digital Platform

An AI-powered platform integrating Life Cycle Assessment, predictive analytics and Digital Product Passport functionalities.

3. Circular Design Guidelines

Practical guidance for developing modular, repairable and recyclable footwear and exploring circular business models.

4. Policy Recommendations

Evidence-based recommendations supporting regulation, standardisation, eco-labelling and incentives for sustainable footwear.

5. Training Programme

Technical ecodesign training and interactive resources supporting footwear SMEs, professionals and consumers.



10 Partners 6 Countries

€3.98M 48 Months EU Contribution