



Participatory Workshop on Social LCA within the Safe and Sustainable by Design Framework

16th June, Brussels, 12:00 to 16:30

Hybrid format:

Venue: [Topos EU Parliament. Rue d'Arlon 25, 1050 Brussels](#)

Online facilities will be informed after registration.

[Registration link](#)



* Registration deadline: 6th June.

Exchanging knowledge, evidence-based methods and case studies for building consensus on Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA): paving the way for future SSbD steps

The Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) framework (Caldeira et al., 2022) is a holistic approach developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to ensure that new chemicals, materials, products and processes are inherently safe for people and the environment and sustainable throughout their life cycle. In practice, this means integrating innovation/functionality with safety (toxicological, ecological) and sustainability (environmental, social, economic) considerations in the design, production, use, and end-of-life of chemicals, materials, products and processes.

Sustainability within this context is mainly covered by the Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA) approach where Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) is one of the three pillars of this methodology. However, the assessment of social aspects within the SSbD and life cycle perspectives is a rather young field of research compared to the assessment of ecological impacts of value chains via LCA and has been less in focus during the last decades of life cycle sustainability assessment. Despite UNEP/SETAC guidelines (2020, 2021) defining impact categories, challenges persist in justifying impact pathways, using unclear and/or not always justified reference scales to get conclusions and enable comparative exercises on the social assessment. In addition, while being highly relevant, stakeholder categories like local communities, society and other value chain actors are often not explicitly included. The absence of clear comparison references (benchmarks) in the S-LCA, the scarce explainability (and availability) of existing databases (e.g. PSILCA) and the effort-intensive approaches to get social relevant data are also important challenges.

In order to address current challenges building consensus around potential solutions, we propose the following workshop in the context of several EU funded projects willing to join forces to exchange knowledge and contribute to a joint understanding, with the involvement/support of the IRISS network, also with the interest of the JRC on the results and feedback of this discussion.

The agenda will firstly focus on the introduction of the stakeholders and researchers attending the meeting, and then, through a participatory approach, attendees will be invited to present their existing experiences, methodologies, limitations and also to discuss opportunities and next steps for the advancement of S-LCA within the SSbD framework.

Essential details of the workshop:

Duration: 4 hours (12:00 to 16:30, 30 minutes break, light lunch included)

Format: Hybrid, in-person participatory workshop and online attendance allowed

Addressed to: researchers involved in social LCA (as part of the SSbD framework) in R&I projects willing to exchange their approaches and contributing to joint efforts.

Preparatory work: the physical attendees will be invited to prepare in advance the contents of the different discussion slots using a common template for harmonisation of the content exchange

Dissemination and open policy: unless any specification of sensitive or confidential information by the participants, the content of the workshop will be made available through open repositories such as Zenodo to any interested party with all pertinent declarations of authorship, ownership and acknowledgements. The minutes of the meeting will be shared and validated by the participants and main conclusions and next steps will be disseminated and shared with relevant organisations and stakeholders (I-AIM, JRC).

Data and location: 16th June, Brussels (venue TBC, information will be provided after registration)

Preliminary agenda

12:00- Introduction	
30 min	10'
	15'
	15'

- Welcome and workshop objectives. Maite Ferrando, Kveloce
- IRISS network and S-LCA. Emma Strömberg, IVL, Project Coordinator
- Status of S-LCA within the SSbD framework: current challenges: IRISS mapping carried on S-LCA. Amaya Igartua, Tekniker
- Quick *tour de table*: name, organization, and current S-LCA work presentation of all attendees

12:30 S-LCA Case Studies & Frameworks (participatory session)	
60 min	60' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short presentations of S-LCA application in different projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Case study brief introduction ◦ Social LCA framework and/or general methodological decisions ◦ Overall results, challenges found and lessons learned
30 min	13:30-Light Lunch Break
14:00- Methods & Approaches for S-LCA Evaluation (participatory session)	
60 min	30' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual frameworks and theoretical foundations
	30' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion on methodological choices applied and implications
15:00- Data Collection and Indicators (participatory session)	
60 min	30' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches to data collection in S-LCA along the innovation process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Primary vs. secondary data ◦ Qualitative vs. quantitative methods ◦ Stakeholder engagement strategies
	30' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators and measurement systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Selection criteria for indicators ◦ Reference scales and comparative data for scoring (0 to 4) ◦ Sector-specific indicators
16:00- Next Steps	
30 min	30' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying opportunities for methodological advancement • Proposal for resources sharing and next steps for a joint S-LCA task-force

Co-organised by:



Supporting projects:



References:

Caldeira C., Farcal R., Garmendia Aguirre, I., Mancini, L., Tosches, D., Amelio, A., Rasmussen, K., Rauscher, H., Riego Sintes J., Sala S. Safe and Sustainable by Design chemicals and materials - Framework for the definition of criteria and evaluation procedure for chemicals and materials. EUR 31100 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-53264-4, doi:10.2760/487955, JRC128591

Caldeira C., Farcal R., Moretti C., Mancini L., Rasmussen K., Rauscher H., Riego Sintes J., Sala S. Safe and Sustainable by Design chemicals and materials - Review of safety and sustainability dimensions, aspects, methods, indicators, and tools. EUR 30991 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-47560-6, doi:10.2760/879069, JRC127109

Kirill Maister, Claudia Di Noi, Andreas Ciroth, and Michael Srocka, 'PSILCA v.3 Database documentation', Jun. 2020.

UNEP, 2021. Methodological Sheets for Subcategories in Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) 2021. Traverso, M., Valdivia, S., Luthin, A., Roche, L., Arcese, G., Neugebauer, S., Petti, L., D'Eusanio, M., Tragnone, B.M., Mankaa, R., Hanafi, J., Benoît Norris, C., Zamagni, A. (eds.). United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).