

The "ecological scarcity" impact assessment & weighting method: How to develop national and regional eco-factors

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Abstract

This course focuses on methodological aspects of the ecological scarcity method: Life cycle impact assessment may either be based on damage assessments or on a distance to target approach. The ecological scarcity method, first introduced in 1990 in Switzerland, is one of the most popular distance to target methods and has regularly been updated. In 2013 the third update of the Swiss eco-factors based on this method was published.

In this short course you will learn the basic concept of the distance to target approach. Based on a selection of pollutants and resource consumptions it is shown how the eco-factors are derived from political targets and the current situation. The participants will learn the basic principles of the method and how to establish eco-factors according to the distance to target approach. The lessons learned during the projects establishing the Swiss eco-factors are presented focusing on challenges and how to address them successfully.

Course objectives

- Understand the basic concept of the distance to target impact assessment method "ecological scarcity".
- Know how to establish country specific impact factors according to the ecological scarcity method.
- Know how to set up a project to establish an ecological scarcity method in your country.

Course level

Intermediate