

Delving into the social and monetarised environmental impacts during the evaluation process of the Life Cycle of products in order to be able to take all three pillars of sustainability into account



CHAIRS: Graziella Benedetto, Tomas Ekval, Cassia Maria Lie Ugaya

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The aim of this parallel session is to draw attention on social and monetarised environmental impacts/aspects in evaluating the life cycle of a good or a service. The fact that the firms are bringing their attention towards sustainability (e.g., the Wal-Mart approach to sustainability: “Meeting social and environmental standard is not optional”) is an example of how LCA tools are becoming increasingly popular in supply chain management for identifying social hot spots and key stakeholders and increasing the added value of the firm in terms of image, reputation and credibility. Furthermore, consumers have been increasingly making their purchasing decisions on the basis of a firm’s role and contribution to society in all sectors, including agri-food.

Externalities, positive or negative, produced by an economic activity are key issues in the evaluation of its sustainability, because they affect the public sphere and the community. The side effects of any action are not taken into account, as long as they are not internalized in the market transactions of the responsible parties. The monetarisation of these externalities has a close link to the LCC and the LCM and huge overlap with LCA community. Hence, the assessment of Environmental Damage Cost (EDC) has to be intensively discussed, harmonised, disseminated and reviewed.

Delving into these aspects will become strategically relevant for companies in the future as retailers and consumers expand the range of sustainability tools they use to deepen and fulfil their commitment to sustainability and even more for Decision Maker.

All contributions towards the development and deepening of themes related to both theoretical and applicative social and economic aspects, will be accepted focused on food and non food sector.

Keywords: S-LCA, Stakeholder perceptions, Externalities, Environmental Damage Costs, Monetarisation, Life Cycle Impact Assessment.

SESSION TYPE: Platform, Poster and Poster Corner

ADVISORY GROUP: Life-Cycle Assessment Advisory Group (Europe)