

LC Net

Newsletter of the
Life Cycle Initiative



A joint organisation of
UN Environment and SETAC



Life Cycle Initiative announcements, events and more! May/June 2017 Edition

- [LC Net Focus](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

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LC Net Focus

Five More Years of Achievements and New Strategy to Further Life Cycle Thinking

Today, with a new strategy of the Life Cycle Initiative in its final stage of development, we are also finalising the conclusion of the activities of Phase 3 (2012 -2017). The last five years has been a fruitful period for the Initiative, to fulfil our mission to enable the global use of credible life cycle knowledge. We have observed a growing number of national life cycle networks and practitioners for the global life cycle community, many of them with the help of the projects, activities, publications and communication of the Initiative. Between 2002 and 2017, the Life Cycle Initiative contributed to the global growth of national LCA networks - from 11 to 49 networks, and the following graph highlights some of our achievements.

In phase 3, we have five flagship projects in developing life cycle knowledge, tools and capacity. The area of life cycle impact indicators in particular has seen key successes throughout the years, and some of the recommended indicators are being adopted by large organisations and are influencing processes such as the recommendations for impact indicators in the European Commission' Environmental Footprint package. Other key successes include driving consensus in the area of managing LCA databases, Social LCA, or more application-oriented guidance such as the Organizational LCA guidance which has been recently road-tested by 12 institutions globally, as well as the guidance on hotspots analysis. In terms of capacity development, the Initiative has been actively supporting the



establishment and development of national life cycle networks, through various training and networking events. We have also implemented the LCM-CMM (Life Cycle Management – Capability Maturity Model) model in 8 pilot projects, which operationalise life cycle thinking in product development, marketing, and strategic decision-making in business. Altogether, the Initiative has become a global platform to connect the knowledge and best practices from life cycle community with practical users.

We would like to seize this opportunity to thank all the organisations and experts that have actively contributed to these achievements, and especially our donors for their trust and interest in our work. Also, thanks to all the readers that follow our activities and newsletter, for your always constructive and useful feedback.



We are now on the path to the year 2030, the year which the global community sets as our target year for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that the Life Cycle Initiative can play a pivotal role to meet the growing need for more life cycle knowledge from global policy and business agendas, and serve as an interface between users and experts of life cycle approaches. With a more focused delivery, transparent governance, more inclusive membership, and ambitious fund-raising strategy, the Life Cycle Initiative will more effectively bring Life Cycle Thinking to the mindsets of decision makers with the practical knowledge and tools to enhance the sustainability of their decisions. Please stay tuned for more details on our new strategy in the coming editions of the newsletter, and get ready to (re)join the Initiative as an active member for a brand new period.

Announcements

Including abstract deadlines, publications, and other interesting news

Workshop on Impact Assessment Indicators and Methods | 11
May 2017 | Brussels, Belgium

As a component of the multi-year global process to provide guidance on harmonised environmental indicators for Life Cycle Impact Assessment, you are invited to join a stakeholder meeting organized by the Life Cycle Initiative back-to-back with the SETAC-Europe Brussels meeting on Thursday 11 May 2017, 5:30-8pm. The stakeholder meeting will take place in the Center of Brussels at the SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre, B-1000 Brussels, Meeting Studio 314 & 316.

The stakeholder meeting agenda includes short presentations about the state of work of the Task Forces on Acidification and eutrophication, Human toxicity, Ecotoxicity, Mineral primary resources, Ecosystem services (focus on soil quality) and Crosscutting issues. It provides the opportunity for you to give feedback and to discuss with the Task Force representatives.

A follow-up meeting of Task Force members will take place on Friday morning, 12 May 2017 (on invitation only) to address your comments and further elaborate your recommendations towards the LCIA guidance Pellston workshop scheduled for mid 2018.

Please register per email to [Rolf Frischknecht](#) and [Olivier Jolliet](#) if you intend to join the Brussels 2017 stakeholder meeting on Thursday, 11 May, 2017.

Brazilian Experts Gear Up for Life Cycle Assessment Forum

On 9-11 May 2017, Brazilian experts will meet at the second Brazilian Forum for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). Held in Jaguariúna in São Paulo state, "BRACV 2017" will gather researchers, government officials and entrepreneurs in from the life cycle community.

Discussions are set to include support strategies for LCA in Brazil; either as a scientific methodology, a tool for the production/manufacturing sector, or as a source of information for public policy making. On the last day of the forum, a number of workshops and training courses will be open to participants.

The event is promoted by the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT) in partnership with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and the Espaço Eco Foundation, a centre of excellence in education and management for sustainability.

"One of the objectives is to evaluate the progress of the decisions taken at the first forum," says IBICT's expert on LCA, Thiago Rodrigues. "The idea is to discuss the main challenges and opportunities for LCA in Brazil."

Registration is free via [the event website](#).

Training Opportunity on Life Cycle Thinking and Eco-Innovation Training in Latin-America and Caribbean

UN Environment will be hosting a one-day training on Life Cycle Thinking and Eco-Innovation on 12 June 2017 in Medellín, Colombia. The training will take place as part of the VII International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment in Latin America (CILCA). The training will introduce Lifecycle Thinking and Management, including Hotspots Analysis, and Eco-innovation as strategic business solutions to embed sustainability into doing business. At the same time, policy instruments to support such strategic sustainability tools

will be discussed. Participants will acquire knowledge through the application of case studies and exercises.

Following the training, participants will have the opportunity to develop pilot project proposals aimed at enhancing the consideration of the lifecycle thinking in their own institutions or other partner organizations (including an enterprise). A subsequent and separate call for pilot project proposals will be used to select projects for seed funding from UN Environment.

The training will be held in Spanish language and is free of costs. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to [Mr. Ignacio Sanchez](#).

Call for abstract, Indian Conference on Life Cycle Management (ILCM) 2017

ILCM has established itself as one of the most sought-after events in South Asia on Life Cycle Approaches. It brings together Indian and international LCA community, stakeholders including government, industry, academia, as well as the voluntary sector to explore the applicability of Life Cycle Thinking for realization of SCP patterns.

The sixth edition of ILCM will be held on 9-10 October in New Delhi, India.

The objective of ILCM 2017 is to discuss and advance the implementation of Life Cycle Approaches along business value chains, supporting environmental, social and economic sustainability.

- Abstracts are invited under the following themes:
- Life Cycle Knowledge for better business and policy
- Policy Initiatives for Responsible Consumption and Production
- Applying Life Cycle Knowledge for Circular Economy
- Design for Sustainability through Life Cycle Thinking

You can download the guidelines for abstract submission [here](#). Deadline for abstract submission is 15 July 2017.

For more information on ILCM 2017 please feel free to contact the [ILCM team](#) and [browse the website](#).

[back to contents](#)

Upcoming Events

SETAC Europe Annual Meeting | 7–11 May 2017 | Brussels, Belgium

SETAC Europe's 27th Annual Meeting will be the number one meeting place in 2017 on environmental science. From 7 to 11 May in Brussels, Belgium, a wide range of themes will be explored by participants, including: ecotoxicology, toxicology, environmental and human exposure, risk assessment and management, environmental policy and economics, and life cycle assessment.

The five-day event will feature a variety of training, networking and learning opportunities. As usual, the Life Cycle Initiative will be present at the conference, with the last meeting of

the International Life Cycle Board before the launch of the new strategy of the Initiative (by invitation only), as well as several meetings around Life Cycle Impact Assessment taking place during the event (please check the announcement section of this newsletter). Participants at SETAC Meeting can meet us at the Life Cycle Initiative's booth - drop by and say hello (Booth number 9)!

Further information is available via [the conference website](#).

CILCA 2017 | 12-15 June 2017 | Medellín, Colombia

The seventh edition of the International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment in Latin America is being held on 12-15 June in Medellín, Colombia. 'CILCA 2017', which will focus on the contribution of life cycle thinking to the Sustainable Development Goals, is being co-organised by the Ibero-American Life Cycle Network, the Colombian Life Cycle Network and the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative.

>> [Consult the official event website](#).

The LCM2017 CONFERENCE | 3-6 September 2017 | Luxembourg

The eighth International Conference on Life Cycle Management, LCM 2017, will be held on 3-6 September 2017 at the European Convention Center in Luxembourg. The conference will focus on practical solutions for the implementation of life cycle approaches in strategic and operational decision making. This could be at the stage of methodology development, tools and methods experimentation, or LCM-driven success stories as market innovations. Proposals are being considered for the conference sessions, with those following a "value chain" approach particularly welcome (i.e. those combining relevant stakeholders and actors).

>> [Consult the conference's website](#).

World Resources Forum 2017 | 24-25 October 2017 | Geneva, Switzerland

The 2017 World Resources Forum will take place on 24-25 October 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. This year's conference, on '*Accelerating the Resource Revolution*', will focus on conditions, challenges and opportunities for governments, businesses, academia and civil society. More specifically, participants will look at how to accelerate the resource transition and how to manage, coordinate, finance, track progress, train and communicate.

>> [Consult the official event website](#).

You can also consult our [Events page](#) for more information about the events above. Is there an event coming up in your area? Just [let us know](#) and we'll add it to our list.

[back to contents](#)

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