



#### Life Cycle Assessment

**Unit 1. Fundamentals** 



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Departamento de Ingenierías Química y Biomolecular



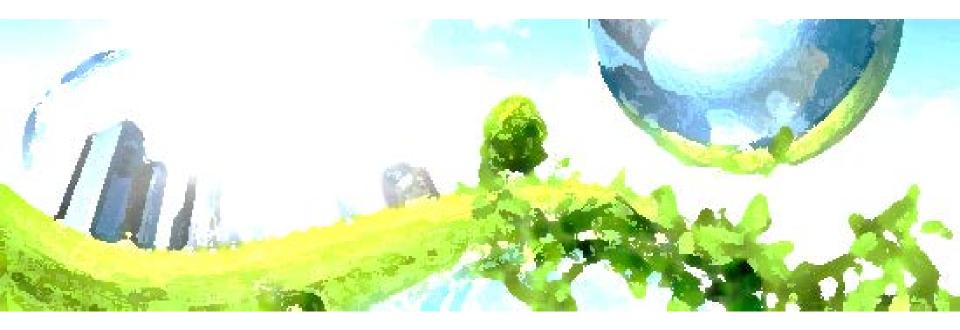
# UNIT 1. LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA) FUNDAMENTALS



#### LEARNING TARGETS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT OF THE LCA CONCEPT
LIFE CYCLE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT
EUROPE 2020
LIFE CYCLE THINKING





Global Environmental Outlook 6 Pan-European

Air Pollution

500k

## premature deaths caused by outdoor air pollution

The proportion of the population living in areas exceeding WHO air quality guideline values varies by pollutant, with between 87-93 per cent of the EU population exposed to high levels of fine particles (PM2.5), 61-83 per cent to PM10, and 97-98 per cent to high levels of ozone (O3).



Global Environmental Outlook 6 Pan-European

Climate Change

0.31

°C per decade was the temperature rising between 1980 and 2009



Global Environmental Outlook 6 Pan-European

#### Chemicals and Waste

**12**M

Tonnes Waste from electrical goods and electronic equipment in Europe are expected to be generated in 2020



Global Environmental Outlook 6 Pan-European

Coastal, Marine and Oceans

7

% of marine species indicate 'favourable conservation status'.

The chemical status of pan-European oceans and seas has generally improved, but harmful substances continue to degrade coastal areas and open oceans, nutrient loads remain high and the impacts of new pollutants, including plastic wastes forming marine litter, are growing.



**Global Environmental Outlook 6 Pan-European** 

#### Land

20

per cent of Natura 2000 (protected) territories have already been lost to sealing and land take.



#### Global Environmental Outlook 6 Pan-American

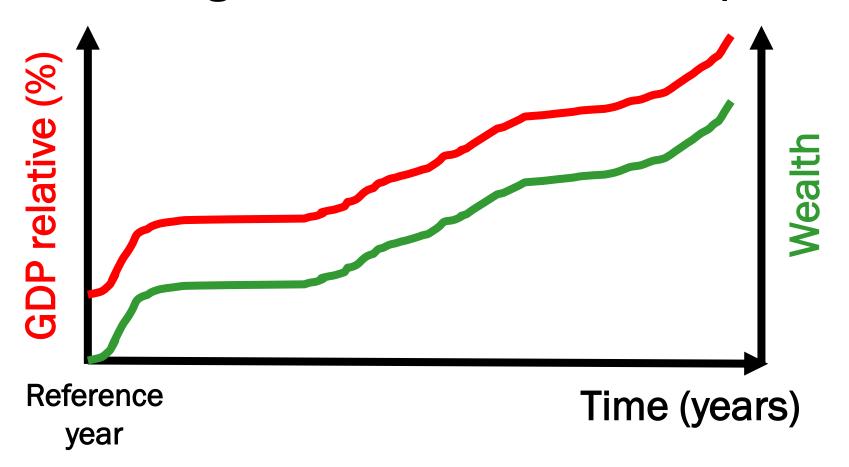
#### Options for the region moving forward

- Decarbonize energy and transport systems
- Restoring ecosystems
- Decoupling resource use from economic growth
- Strengthening environmental responsibility in business
- Incentivizing lifestyle changes



**Development as economic development** 

## Classical identification between economic growth and economic development

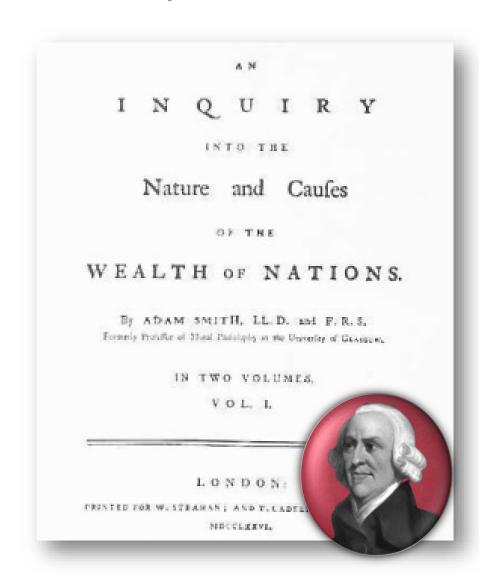


#### **Development as economic development**

#### The Wealth of Nations

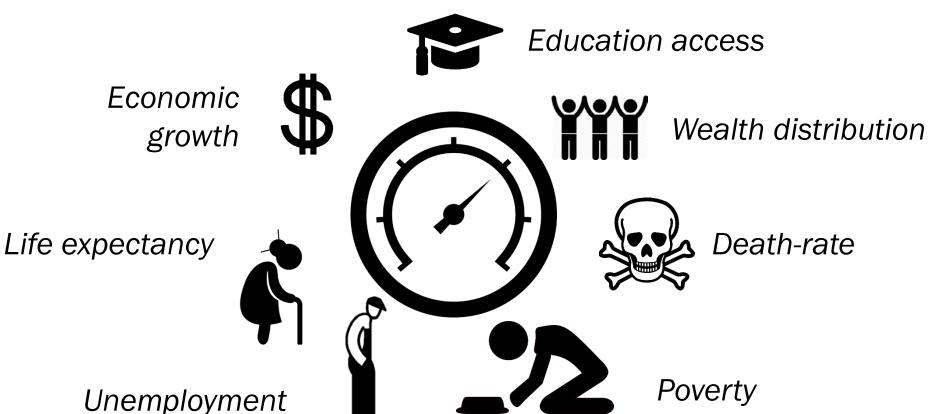
An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the **Wealth of Nations,** by Adam Smith 1776; Book 1, Chapter 8, Of the Wages of Labour [36]

"...No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable..."

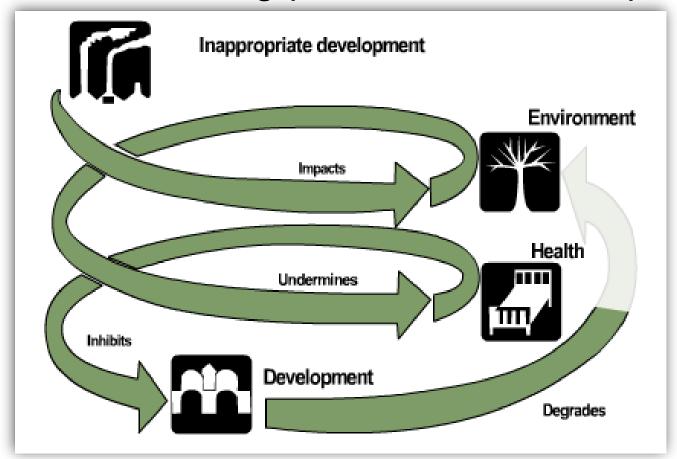


**Development definition** 

## Economic growth is different from Economic Development



#### The descending spiral of unsustainable development



The descending spiral of unsustainable development is not the result of a single factor rather than a combination of factors that reinforce each others

#### The origin of the concept

"...11. Until recently, the planet was a large world in which human activities and their effects were neatly compartmentalized within nations, within sectors (energy, agriculture, trade), and within broad areas of concern (environment, economics, social). These compartments have begun to dissolve. This applies in particular to the various global 'crises' that have seized public concern, particularly over the past decade. These are not separate crises: an environmental crisis, a development crisis, an energy crisis. They are all one."

Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future (1987), I.2. The interlocking Crises



Gro Harlem Brundtland
Ex-head of the World
Commission on Environment
and Delopment

http://www.un.org/News/dh/hlpanel/brundtland-bio.htm

#### **Approaches to Sustainable Development**







New socio-economic paradigm

Traditional economic approach

#### Sylvicultura Oeconomica 1713

Hans-Carls von Carlowitz develops the basic law of sylviculture: "that not more wood should be removed from the forests as can grow in the long run"



#### Present



## Reforest

**Future** 

#### Wall Street Crash 1929

Economic growth concept raises as a driver for the massive increase of goods purchase. Consumption is linked to development and progress

#### Planned Obsolescence

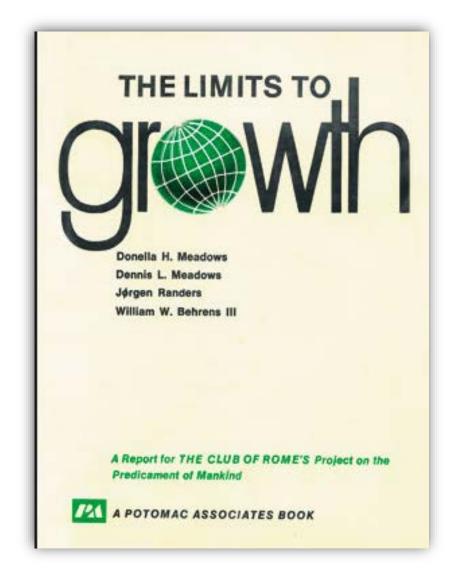




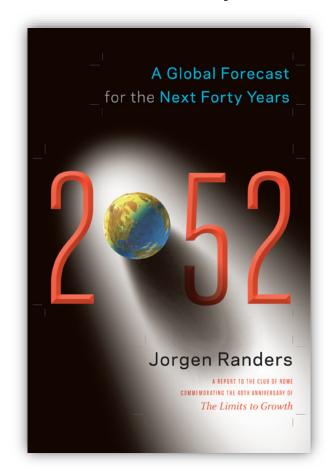
http://www.centennialbulb.org/cam.htm

1st Report of the Club of Rome "The limits to growth" 1972

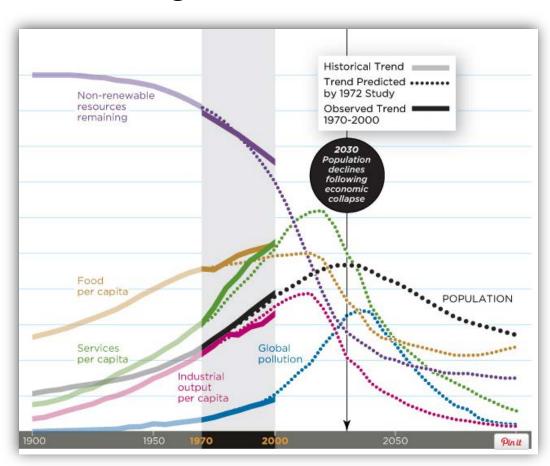
Contradiction between a non-finite growing and a non restringing grow of the consumption in a world of finite resources bringing this issue to the world agenda



#### 40 years after "The limits of growth" in 2012



"Professor Randers' analysis of where the world could be in 40 years has demonstrated that 'Business as usual' is not an option if we want our grand-children to live in a sustainable and equitable planet. It took 40 years before the full message of The Limits to Growth was properly understood. We cannot afford any more lost decades."



**United Nations Conference on the Human Environment Stockholm 1972** 

Preparatory meetings in 1971 expressed concern about the environmental consequences of increasing global development, while nations that were still developing raised their own continuing need for economic development



**United Nations Conference on the Human Environment Stockholm 1972** 

To examine the world's growing environmental and development problems with a view to making recommendations to national governments and international bodies on appropriate actions

#### <u>United Nations Development Program</u>





World Comm. on Env. and Dev. "Brundtland Commission" in 1983

The 3 goals of the Commision:

to **re-examine** critical environmental and development **problems** around the world and **formulate** realistic **proposals** to address them



to **strengthen** international **cooperation** on environmental and development issues



to raise the level of understanding and commitment to sustainable development on the part of individuals, organizations, businesses and governments



**Definition from "Our Common Future" 1987** 

"... development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

Our Common Future a.k.a. "Brundtland report", 1987 (Chapter 2: Towards Sustainable Development, article 1) Oxford University Press, ISBN-13: 978-0192820808



#### The three pillars of Sustainable Development

### ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ To avoid overexplotation
- ✓ Sinks functions
- ✓ Non renewable resources
- ✓ Atmospheric stability
- ✓ To produce goods and services
- ✓ To avoid extreme debt
- ✓ To avoid sectorial imbalances

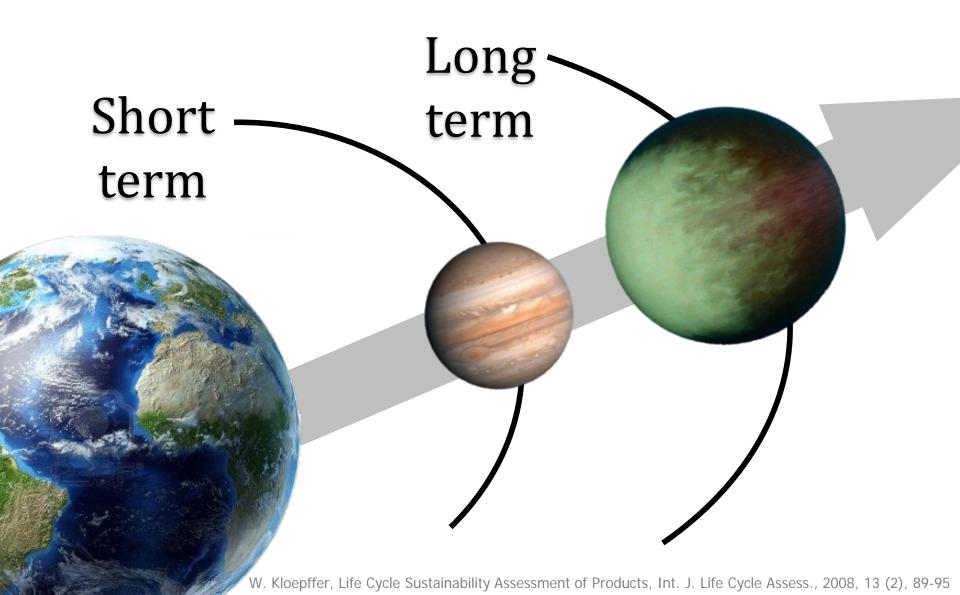


- ✓ Fairness in distribution
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Gender equity
- ✓ Political accountability
- ✓ Social participation

**ECONOMY** 

SOCIETY

**Short and long term alignment approach** 



#### The role of the engineers

"...Engineers have never mattered more in sustainable world, which they are challenged incorporate additional requirements and conditions in making a sustainable design..."

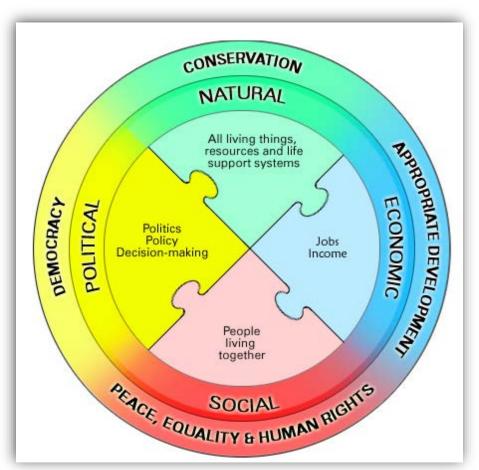


#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## SUSTAINABLE GOALS



#### **Politics & culture**



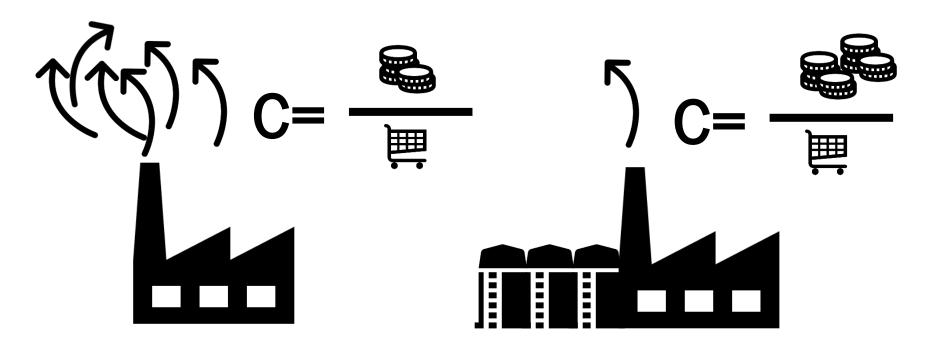
Politics and culture determines the interactions between the three pillars

How much does it cost to pollute less?

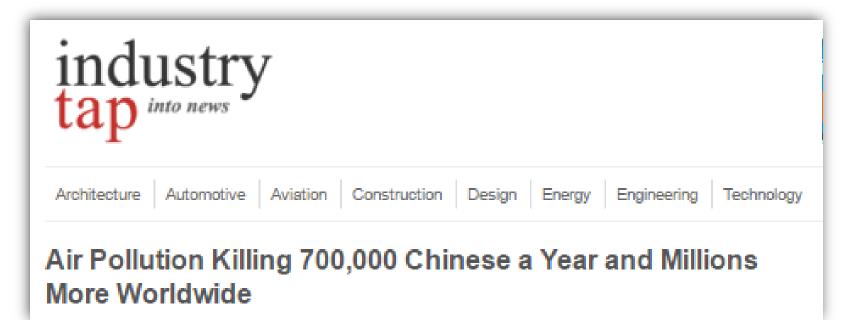
#### Pollute less means more money

Untreated stream

Treated stream



#### **Insight China**





#### **Insight China**



Installed PV capacity rose to 77.42 gigawatts at the end of 2016, with the addition of 34.54 gigawatts over the course of the year, data from the energy agency showed.

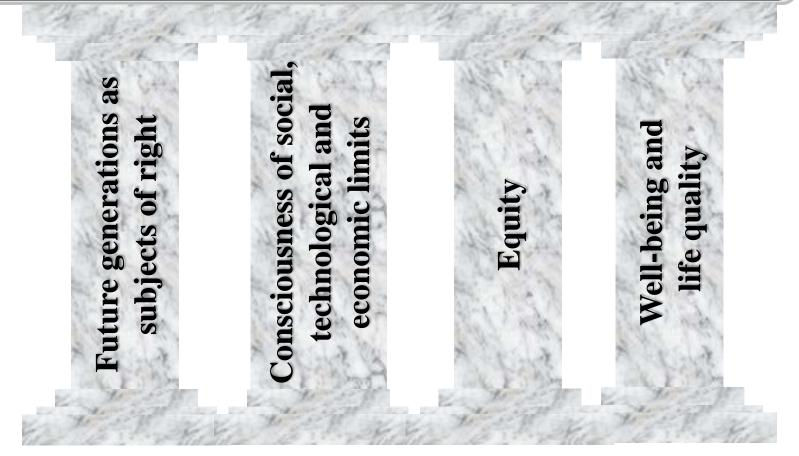
#### **Insight China**



China will plough 2.5th yuan (£292bh) into renewable power generation by 2020, the country's energy agency has said, as the world's largest energy market continues to shift away from dirty coal power towards cleaner fuels. The investment will create more than 13m jobs in the sector, the National Energy Administration said in a blueprint document that lays out its plan to develop the nation's energy sector during the five-year 2016 to 2020 period.

**Another view of the pillars of the Sustainable Development** 

#### Sustainable Development



**Equity at the center** 

### Sustainable Development has equity on its very own center

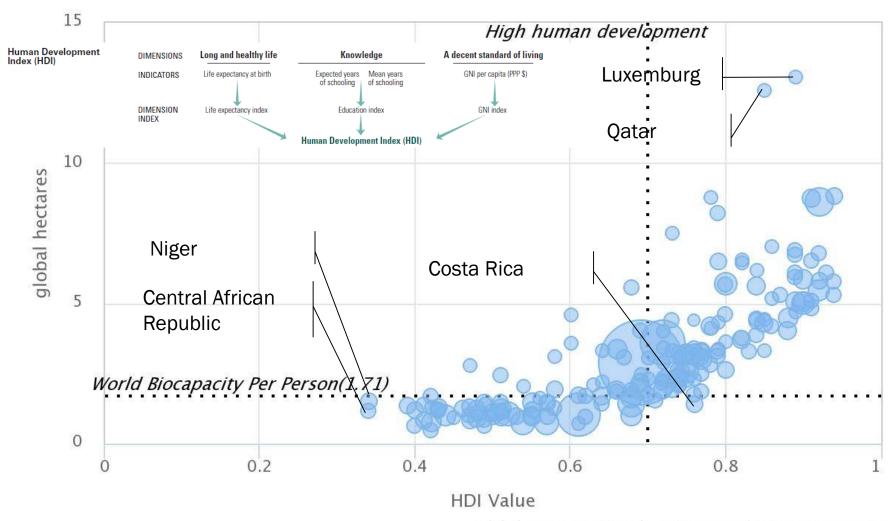


#### **Equity at the center**



#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### **Human Development Index vs Global Footprint**



Global Footprint Network, 2017 National Footprint Accounts

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

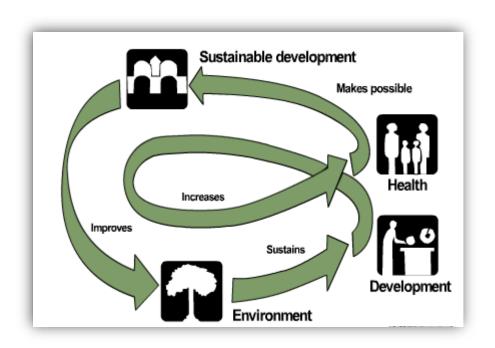
#### **Equity at the center**



Pintada en Londres atribuida a Banksy: "No creo en el cambio climático". REUTERS

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### The ascending spiral of Sustainable Development

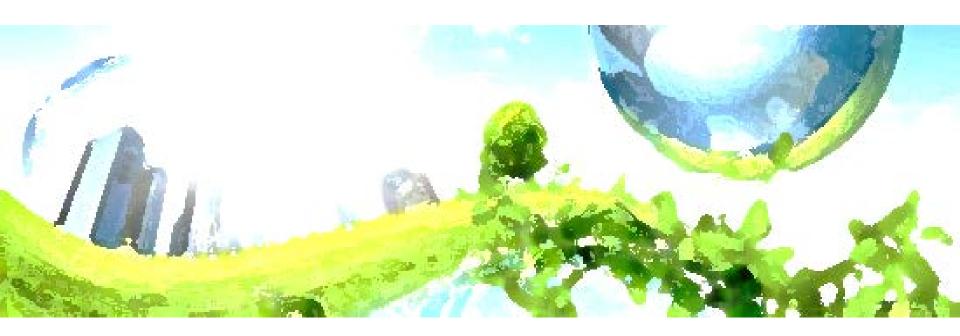


#### The message from Sustainable Development:

A strong interaction between elements

Human well-being is as least as important as economic development

It is not possible economic development in the long-term without considering human development and the status of the environment



A definition

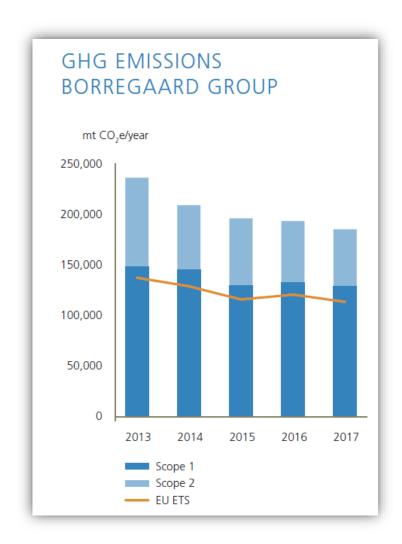
## Compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and the potential environmental impacts of a product system throughout its life cycle

LCA can assist at...

Improvement of Information to environmental decisionperformance makers Selection of relevant indicators Marketing

LCA can assist at...

# Improvement of environmental performance



LCA can assist at...

# Information to decision-makers



LCA can assist at...

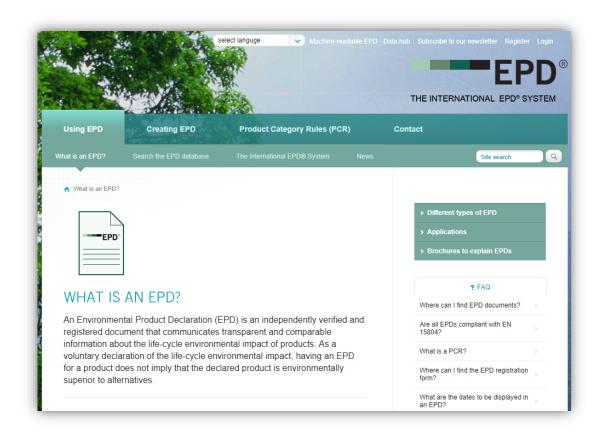
Selection of relevant indicators



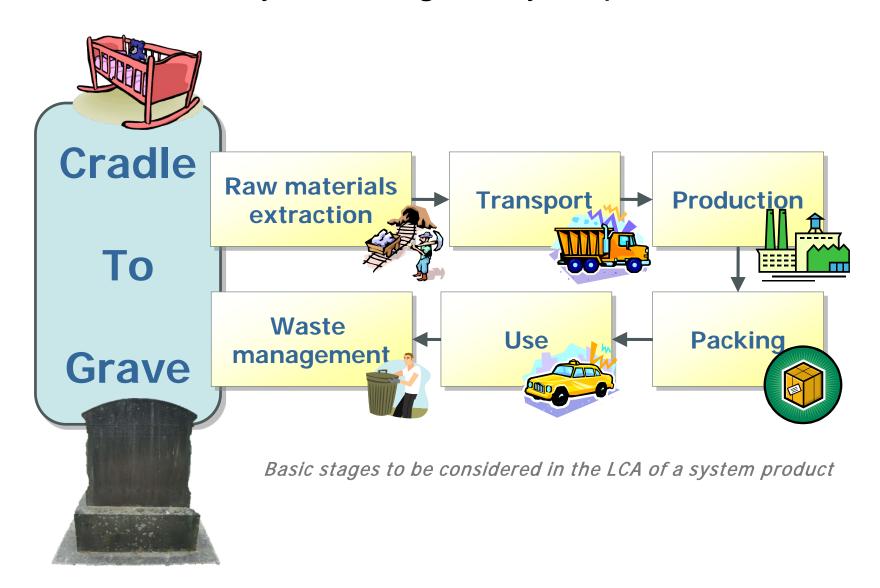
#### LCA can assist at...

### Marketing

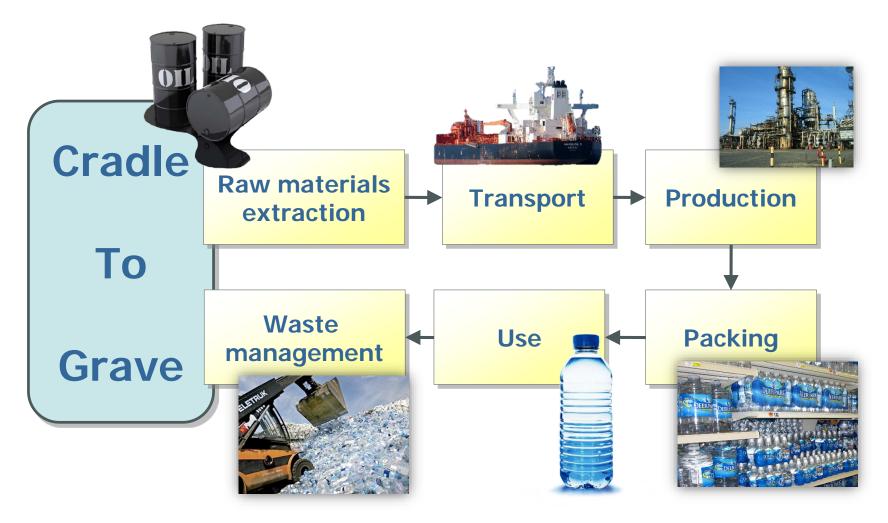




Life Cycle basic stages of a system product

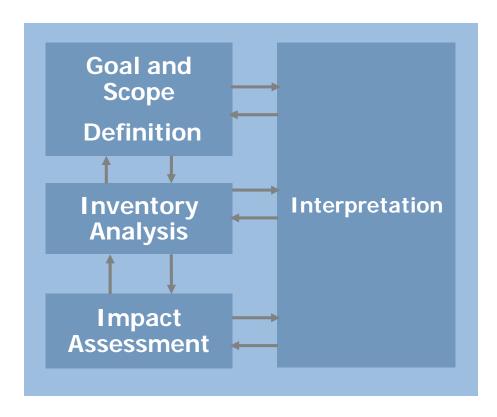


Life Cycle basic stages of a system product



#### Stages to be performed in a LCA study

Inter-linked stages in LCA (iterative character)



Stages in LCA

#### 1. Goal and Scope Definition

What? Process, product, service Why? Reasons
To whom? Public & readership

#### 2. Inventory Analysis

Inputs & outputs of energy, materials and emissions

#### 3. Impact Assessment

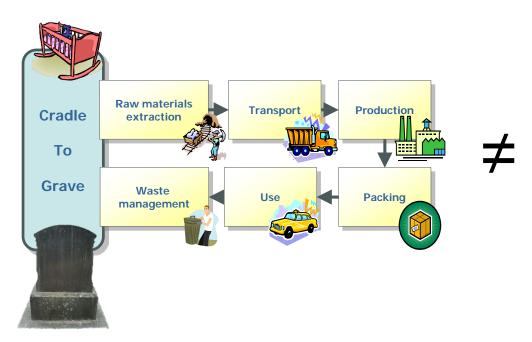
How much environmental impact?

#### 4. Interpretation

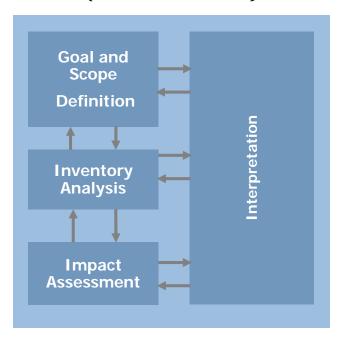
What is the best option?
What is the hot point throughout
Life Cycle?

LC basic stages are different of the stages to be performed in a LCA study

Basic stages to be considered in the LCA of a system product



Inter-linked stages in LCA (iterative character)



Basic stages in the LC of a system product <u>are different</u> from the 4 inter-linked stages in a LCA study

What are the main features of LCA compared to other env. tools?

1

#### Life cycle perspective<sup>[1,2]</sup>

All phases ... of the life cycle of a product (good or service) have to be assessed with regard to all relevant material and energy flows.

2

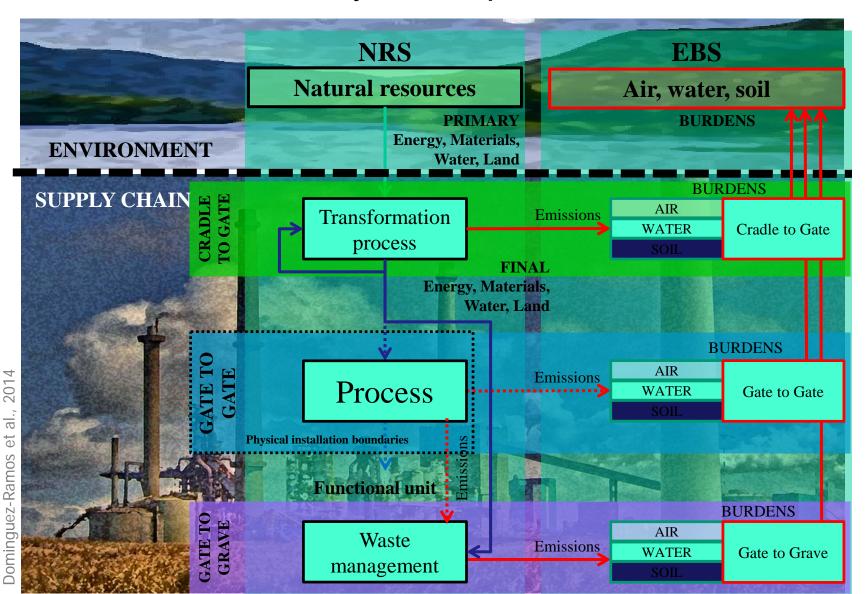
# Cross-media environmental approach<sup>[1]</sup> All relevant environmental impacts are taken into account, i.e., ...use of resources... and ... emissions to air, water and soil, including waste.



#### Functional unit<sup>[2]</sup>

The use of a functional unit for comparative studies

**Environmental Sustainability main components and its relation with LCA** 



Early LCA activities (70s)

The first LCA study is considered to be conducted for Coca-Cola in 1969-70 by the Midwest Research Institute in USA

Switching from glass to plastic bottles was huge because of the bad reputation of plastic

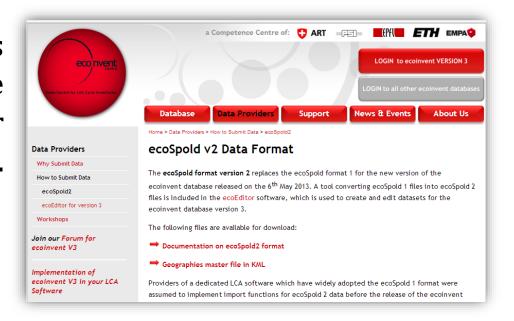


#### Advances in the 90s

The need for LCA databases

LCA promotion lead to design engineers to complete fast LCA studies thanks to LCA software. Consequently, there were a need of LCA databases

Very soon professionals realized the need of define formats and structure for their information content. The SPOLD format was born



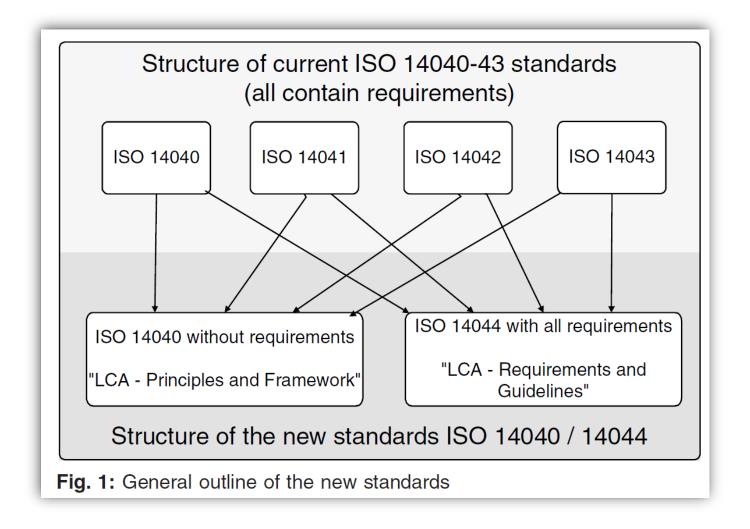
#### Advances in the 90s

Towards a uniform methodology

The standardization was the next step, which started in 1993 within the framework of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Date	Number	Name
1997	ISO 14040	LCA – principles and framework
1998	ISO 14041	LCA – goal and scope definition and inventory analysis
2000	ISO 14042	LCA – life cycle impact assessment
2000	ISO 14043	LCA – life cycle interpretation
2002	ISO/TS1 14048	LCA – Data documentation format

#### **Actual ISO rules**

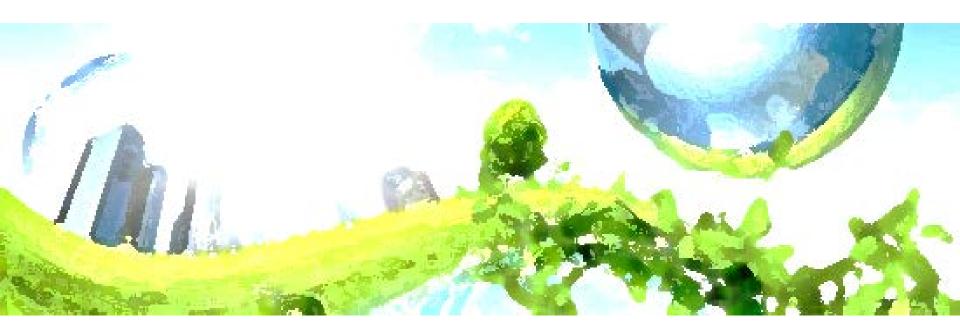


#### **Actual ISO rules**

Date	Number	Name
<b>2000</b> (1997)	ISO 14040	Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework
1998	<del>ISO</del> <del>14041</del>	LCA – goal and scope definition and inventory analysis
2000	<del>ISO</del> <del>14042</del>	LCA life cycle impact assessment
2000	<del>ISO</del> <del>14043</del>	LCA – life cycle interpretation
2006	ISO 14044	Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines

#### **Actual ISO rules**

Date	Number	Name
2012	ISO 14045	Environmental management — Eco-efficiency assessment of product systems — Principles, requirements and guidelines
2014	ISO 14046	Environmental management — Water footprint — Principles, requirements and guidelines
2003	ISO/TR 14047	Environmental management — Life cycle impact assessment — Examples of application of ISO 14042
2002	ISO/TS 14048	Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Data documentation format
2000	ISO/TR 14049	Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Examples of application of ISO 14041 to goal and scope definition and inventory analysis
2013	ISO 14067	Greenhouse gases — Carbon footprint of products — Requirements and guidelines for quantification and communication
2014	ISO/TS 14072	Environmental management Life cycle assessment Requirements and guidelines for organizational life cycle assessment



**Sustainability and LCA** 

### SUSTAINABILITY

...while it is "easy" to talk about **Sustainability** when talking about **LCA**  It is "easy" to mention

Sustainability and

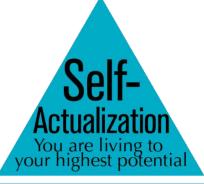
not talking about

LCA...

## LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

The Maslow hierarchy of needs

The most basic needs are placed in the bottom of the pyramid



Esteem
You've acquired the skills that lead to honor and recognition

Love & Belonging

Achieving deeper, more meaningful relationships

SAFETY

Home, sweet home

Physiological Needs

Food, water, sleep

Maslow's Pyramid of Environmental and Sustainability Assessment Tools

Different levels of sophistication can be used to define development paths

LCSA

Eco-/

Resource-Efficiency

Life Cycle Assessment

Carbon Footprinting Water Footprinting

Life Cycle Thinking

The most basic needs are placed in the bottom of the pyramid

#### **Concept formula**

### LCSA = LCA + LCC + SLCA

#### Where:

LCSA = Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment
LCA = Environmental Life Cycle Assessment
LCC = LCA-type Life Cycle Costing
SLCA = Social Life Cycle Assessment

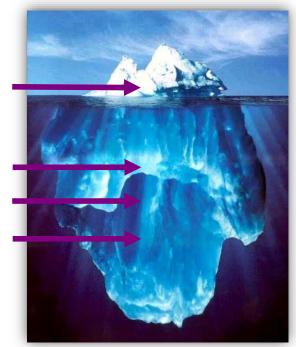
#### **Life Cycle Cost LCC**

The life cycle costs are the total costs of a system or product, produced over a defined life time

The term life cycle costing is used for total-cost-of-ownership assessments as well as external or social cost assessments

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

MAINTENANCE
COSTS
INVENTORY
COSTS
TRANSPORTATION
COSTS



CONSTRUCTION COSTS MAYBE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG!

#### **Social Life Cycle Assessment**

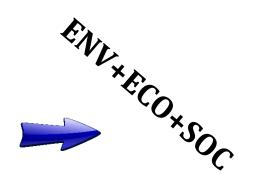
"The topic of SLCA is currently still in its infancy..." "However, the selection social criteria and their quantification is still one of the major challenges when implementing the concept of sustainability."

#### Weighting problems with LCSA

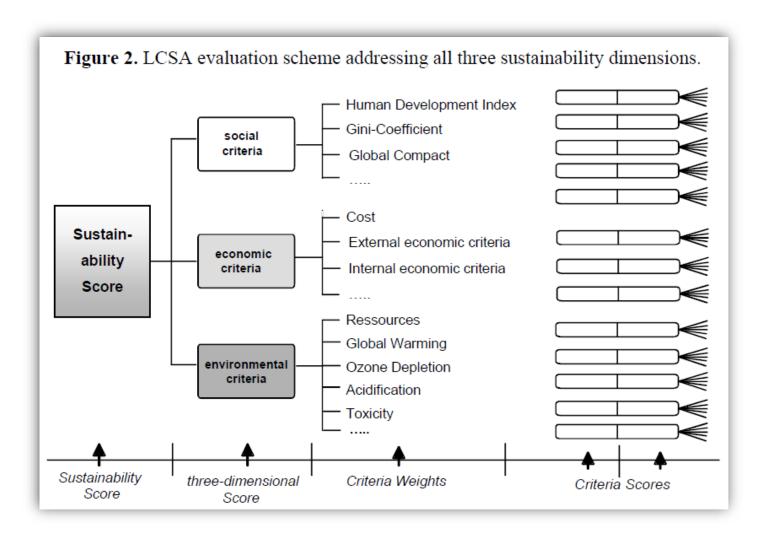
Weighting of individual indicators within each of the three sustainability dimensions, i.e., weighting between e.g., different environmental indicators like global warming potential and acidification potential (the same applies to social and economic indicators)



Weighting among the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic, social).

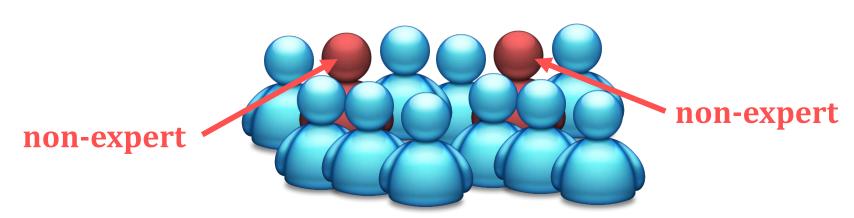


#### Weighting problems with LCSA



#### LCSA evaluation schemes

"To support decision-making LCSA results are faced with the challenge to be difficult to understand and to interpret for a non-expert audience. But non-experts are usually represented in the target audience of the decision-makers. Therefore, an understandable, yet comprehensive presentation of LCSA results is a key challenge for the application of LCSA"

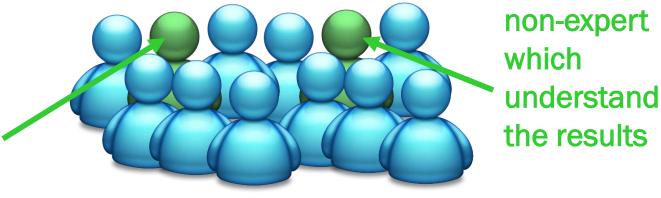


Target audience: decision-makers

#### LCSA evaluation schemes

YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO EXPRESS YOUR RESULTS IN SUCH A WAY THEY CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY ARE HELPFUL FOR DECISION-MAKING!

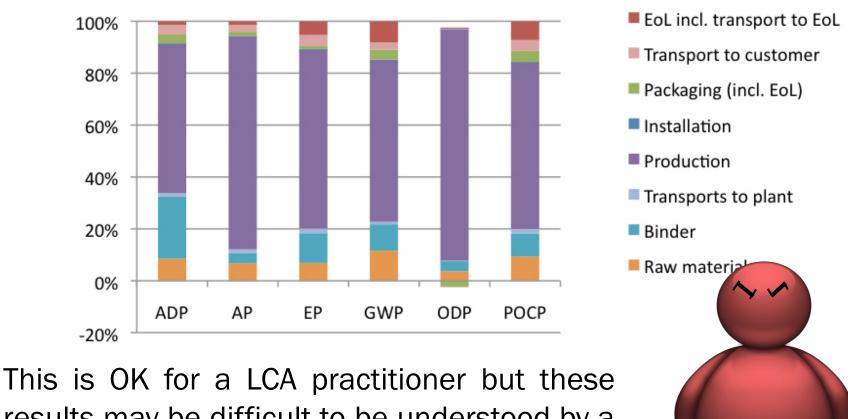
non-expert which understand the results



Target audience: decision-makers

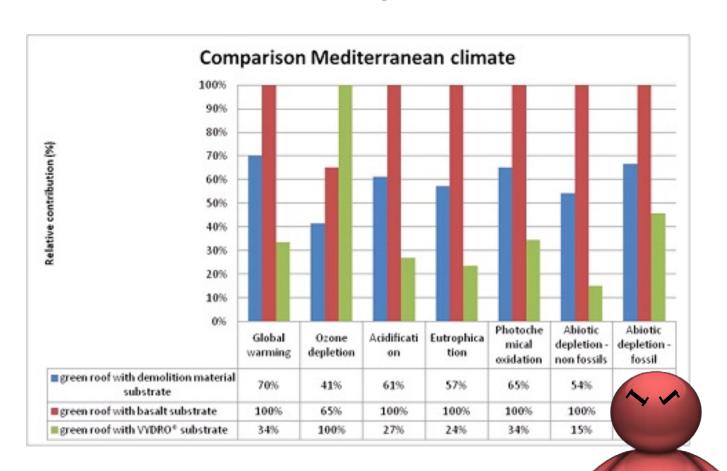
#### **Expressing results...**

#### Relative contributions to environmental impact categories, Life Cycle MW wall 035, 1m<sup>2</sup>



This is OK for a LCA practitioner but these results may be difficult to be understood by a non-expert on LCA!

#### **Expressing results...**



This is OK for a LCA practitioner but these results may be difficult to be understood by a non-expert on LCA!

**Expressing results...** 

50 > 10

"...Well so from an environmental point of view, Process A leads to a value of 50 which almost 5 times the value of Process B so Process B is clearly a better option from an environmental point of view..."

Maybe in order to be able to express the results in a simplified way, you need to reach this level of simplification!

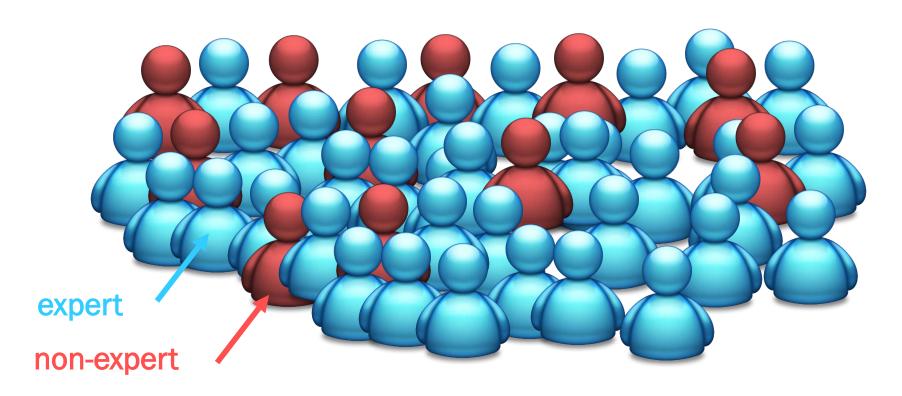
#### TARGET AUDIENCE IS CRITICAL!

#### LIFE CYCLE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

However is it a good option to simplify the results to just one score?

What a LCA practitioner can do?

#### TARGET AUDIENCE IS CRITICAL!



#### LIFE CYCLE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Are the 3 Sustainability components truly independent?

In fact, "the combined impacts, positive and negative, of the sets of measures as a whole, are likely to be more than the simple sum of the impacts of their constituent measures because of synergistic effects" (Lee and Kirkpatrik 2001).

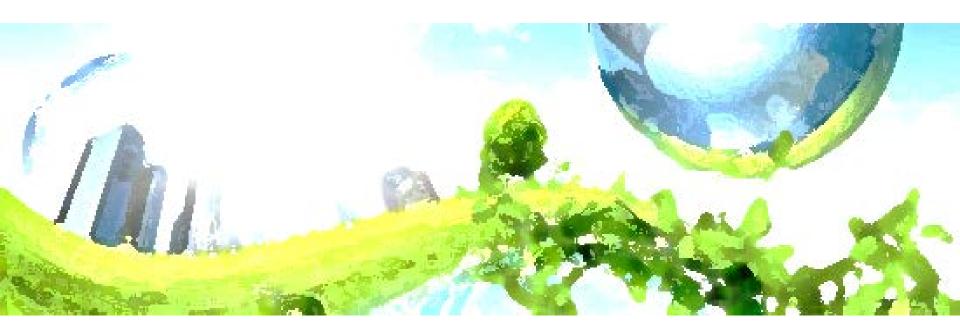
#### LIFE CYCLE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Are the 3 Sustainability components truly independent?

It seems difficult that environmental, economic and social issues can be independently assessed...



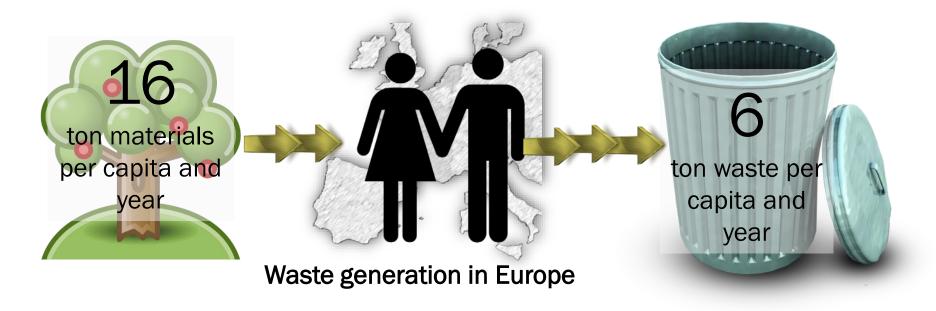
### 1.4. EUROPE 2020



#### **EUROPE 2020**

#### Moving towards a circular economy

Since the industrial revolution, waste has constantly grown. This is because our economies have used a "take-make-consume and dispose" pattern of growth – a linear model which assumes that resources are abundant, available and cheap to dispose of.

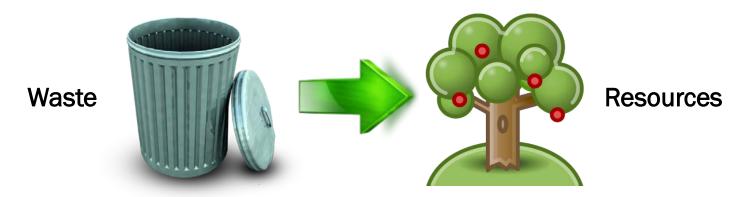


#### **EUROPE 2020**

#### Moving towards a circular economy

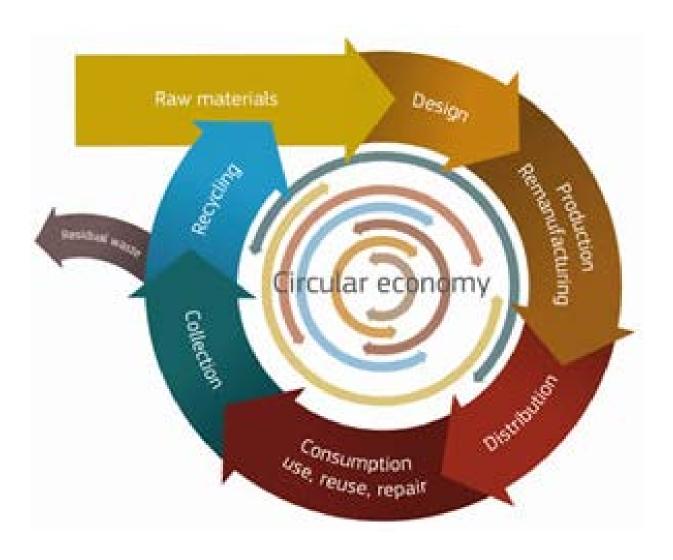
What we need is a more circular economy. This means re-using, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products. What used to be regarded as 'waste' can be turned into a resource. All resources need to be managed more efficiently throughout their life cycle.

...Net savings up to EUR 600 billion, ...GDP by nearly 1%, while creating 2 million additional jobs.



#### **EUROPE 2020**

#### Moving towards a circular economy



Repair Café



Bielorrusia

Turquía

Rumanía

CONTACT

Azerbaiyan

Siria

Datos de mapas © 2017 Google, (NEGI, ORION-ME Términos de uso

Turkmenistá

SHOP

Kazajistán

Q







101

Portugal

**VISIT ONE OF OUR 1208 REPAIR CAFÉS** 

Enter the name of your hometown

#### 0

## Descubre viajes para recordar en Airbnb. Reserva experiencias y alojamientos únicos en más de 191 países.

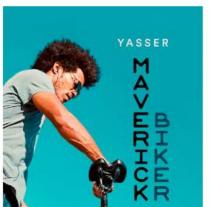
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Destino, ciadad, dirección	Liegada / Odilda	Писэрси	-

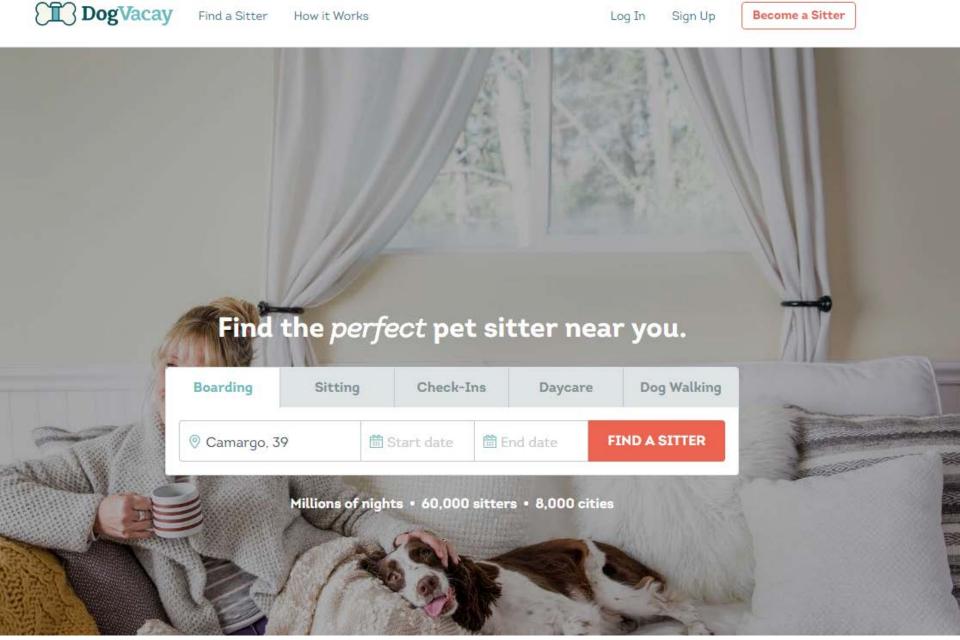
#### Las experiencias más populares



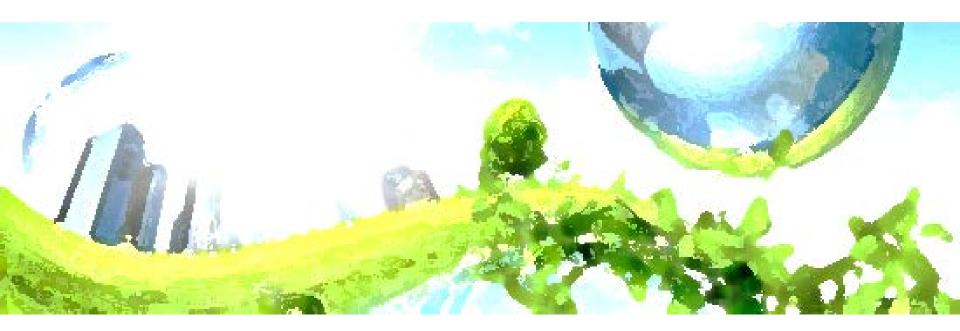








# 1.5. LIFE CYCLE THINKING



#### LIFE CYCLE THINKING

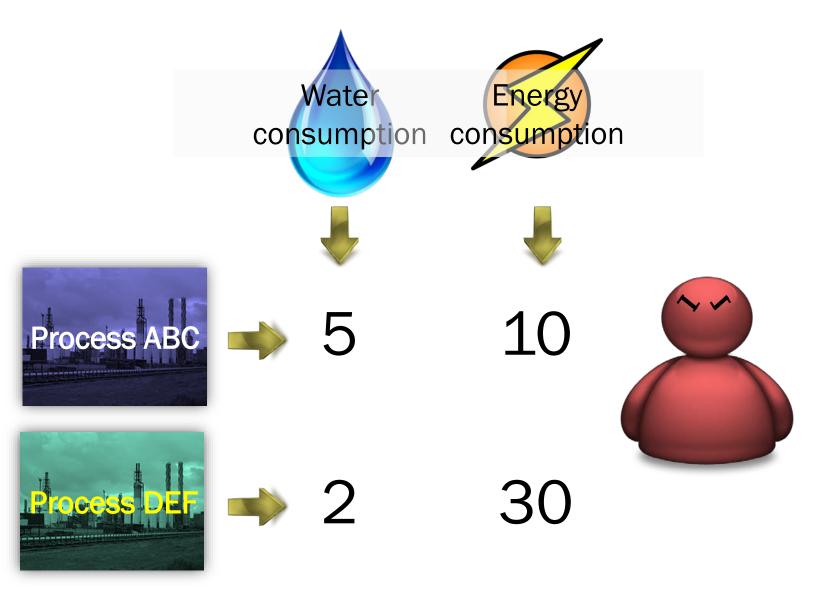
#### Life Cycle Thinking: a definition



"The key aim of **Life Cycle Thinking** is **to avoid burden shifting**. This means minimizing impacts at one stage of the life cycle, or in a geographic region, or in a particular impact category, while helping to avoid increases elsewhere"

#### LIFE CYCLE THINKING

#### **Avoiding burdens shifting**



#### LIFE CYCLE THINKING

#### **Avoiding burdens shifting**

