

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press Release

Social Life Cycle Assessment in built environment

A lecture by Marzia Traverso / RWTH Aachen University, on December 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Oskar von Miller Forum via livestream

Among the different assessment methods to evaluate the social pillar of sustainability, the Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) is the most complete methodology. It has been defined and developed to assess social positive and negative (real or potential) impacts generated by product along their life cycle. The first guidelines has been published by UNEP/SETAC in 2009.

The methodology follows the general framework of the environmental life cycle assessment (LCA) according to the ISO 14040 (2006) because it has been developed to be a complementary approach of the environmental LCA able to evaluate the social impacts of a product.

Because several methodological improvements and implementation have been carried in the last ten years, it has led to the necessity to the revision of the UNEP guidelines 2009. Today we are at the end of the revision phase, the new guidelines will be published in December 2020 and launched on 21 January in a webinar online.

An overview on the methodology, its improvements and initiatives generated around this methodology will be presented and discussed in the presentation.

About

Prof. Marzia Traverso is full professor and head of the Institute of Sustainability in Civil Engineering at RWTH Aachen University since 1st June 2017. She is working in the field of Life Cycle Assessment and sustainability performance of building and transport sector and strategic environmental assessment to the transportation urban systems.

From November 2011 to March 2016 she was project manager at the research and innovation centre of BMW Group. She was responsible for the sustainability performance and LCA of several cars, such as: BMW i3, BMW i8, 7series.

From May 2016 to April 2017 she was Scientific Officer at European Commission, JRC Seville in Product Bureau, responsible for the development of criteria for GPP on street lighting and traffic signals, GPP of Transport and Framework for Building Sector.

She is author and reviewer of several scientific papers in journals such as Sustainability, Int. Journal of Life Cycle Assessment and Industrial Ecology.

Marzia Traverso is President of Director board of the "Forum for Sustainability through Life Cycle Innovation" and part of the expert panel for "Ingenieure retten die Erde e.V."