

LIFE CYCLE APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sonnemann, Guido (1); Massari, Stefania (2); Balkau, Fritz (3)

Organisation(s): 1: University of Bordeaux, France; 2: University of Salento, Italy;

3: Sustainable solutions, Paris

Moderated by: Fritz Balkau

Keywords: Life Cycle Management, Regional development, Sustainability, Life cycle approaches

Abstract

The session provides an insight into the life cycle toolbox that can be used to enhance sustainable regional development. Regions aiming for a sustainable development path have often focussed on highly visible programmatic structures like circular economy, renewable energy, resource efficiency, environment and heritage protection, all in the context also of industrial and social development based on longer term outcomes. While the objectives are clearly stated, the means of achieving them are often not well identified. In fact, each of these programme strands can be enhanced by the use of a specific cluster of life cycle tools, combined in a coordinated life cycle management approach.

A wide range of life cycle tools is now in wider use. Some such as LCA were developed for the business sector to improve product optimization, and further adaptation may be needed before they can be fully effective at regional level. Other tools, especially those concerning regional footprints and materials flows, can already make a useful contribution as they are now. For some sustainability issues such as biodiversity, life cycle tools are at an early stage. Life cycle tools can be grouped into tools for analysis, tools for action, and tools for communication.

This session will explore selected life cycle methodologies and tools that can strengthen regional socio-economic planning and development in a more sustainable manner. The session invites the presentation of life cycle management applications from both a scientific and a practitioner point of view, highlighting examples and case studies at regional level. The applications are relevant to the private actors from different economic sectors as well as for public representatives responsible for regional planning and administrative procedures. The session will finish with a discussion by the presenters about practical guidance points on how such approaches can best enhance sustainability in regional development.