



The International Reference Life Cycle Data System Data Network (ILCD D N): theory and practise

Abstract

Following the success of the short course on International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Handbook during SETAC Europe Conference in Milano in 2011, JRC is willing to run another more advanced course focusing on Life Cycle Inventory data to be used in Life Cycle Assessment studies, and in particular focusing on the concepts and implementation of the ILCD Data Network.

Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) are the scientific approaches behind modern environmental policies and business decision support related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) provides a common basis for consistent, robust and quality-assured life cycle data and studies.

In this context, European Commission's Directorate General Joint Research Centre (JRC) led a "science to policy" process which resulted in various developments, including the ILCD Handbook and the Environmental Footprint (EF) guides. Within the ILCD framework, a series of tools, template and reference document have been published in order to support Life cycle Inventory (LCI) datasets developers. This series of publications defines the requirements related to nomenclature, documentation and the format to be used. The last version of the European reference Life Cycle Database (ELCD) is also widely based on the ILCD. Moreover, within the ILCD Data System framework, JRC has also recently developed the ILCD Data Network (ILCD DN), a web-based infrastructure for better availability of consistent and quality-assured LCI data. Nomenclature and format consistency and quality of data within the ILCD Data Network are ensured thanks to the compliance to the "ILCD Data Network entry-level requirements".

The aim of the course is to provide to the audience theoretical and practical information related to the use of the ILCD tools and templates to address ILCD Format requirements and develop high quality data sets within the context of the ILCD Date Network. The course will also involve some hands-on training that should allow participants to understand why and how they should set-up nodes containing their LCI datasets and registering them to the ILCD DN. The use of the ILCD DN to search relevant LCI datasets will also be addressed.



Short Courses on Sunday 12 May 2013

Course objectives

The aim of the course is:

- To introduce the context in which the ILCD system have been developed; some methodologies developed by the European Commission (including the Environmental Footprint) will be briefly presented;
- To introduce the main concepts supporting the development and the publication of quality-assured LCI datasets to be inserted into the ILCD DN, key format aspect will be addressed (e.g. format and nomenclature) ;
- To provide practical training on how to prepare datasets and to manage datasets using the ILCD Data Network applications (e.g. setting ILCD DN nodes, registering dataset to the ILCD DN; searching and downloading datasets) .

Course level

Intermediate