LCA Methodology Harmonization Workshop, Brussels, 2023
Defining the Outcome

What are the major issues that you see in the comparison of LCA studies in this topic?

- Huge variability of methodological choices (LCA system modelling, selection of databases, use of LCIA methods, scenarios definitions, sensitive parameters selection, etc…
- Most of the time the goal and scope definitions are not clearly stated
- Different background hypotheses for the development of the analysis
- Different criteria used for selecting data and datasets
- Data quality assessment is rarely performed or even qualitatively assessed only a few declare how they retrieved and eventually customized datasets
- Different versions of the LCIA methods used
- Different approaches to show results (indicators, units of measurement, etc.)
- Transparency in the whole process of LCA developments

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Do you see needs for harmonization and where?

- Reference to the ISO 14040/44 for a clear goal and scope definition
- Suggest criteria for defining the system model selecting data and robust datasets to have the best representation possible of the investigated system
- Perform data quality assessment and declare how datasets were retrieved from datasets or literature and eventually customized
- Selection of the LCIA method
- Presentation of the results (uniform of results description)

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What are the main challenges in reaching harmonization?

- Data quality and availability (problem of database data population and of averaged information)
- Not specific data inventories for emerging technologies
- Uncertainty in LCIA methods (inorganics and new substances/processes inventoried during projects)
- Selection of parameters and scenarios for sensitivity analysis

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What do you see as next steps and who should do it?

- Increase the engagement of other LCA groups in Europe to create a strong network in this field
- Participation of industries is compulsory (create incentives for industries to see the value in sharing data info and being transparent…they will benefit from this)
- Improvement of PEFPCR for PV and involvement of stakeholders in the review process