

Workshop Summary
First SLC Alliance Face-to-face Workshop for the Revision of the S-LCA Guidelines
September 12-14th 2018, Pescara, Italy

Introduction

The present document provides a summary of the first SLC Alliance workshop for the revision of the social life cycle assessment (S-LCA) Guidelines. The workshop was held at the University of G. D'Annunzio (Pescara, Italy), on September 12-14th, 2018. It was the first face-to-face meeting bringing together participants from all over the world involved in the S-LCA Guidelines Revision process.

The S-LCA Guidelines Revision Project

The SLC Alliance S-LCA Guidelines Revision is a 4-year project, sponsored by the UNEP Life Cycle Initiative. The first two years are devoted to the revision of the 2009 UNEP-SETAC S-LCA Guidelines. It consists in a development process involving experts' input and stakeholders' engagement to produce an updated version for S-LCA and SOLCA Guidelines. The resulting new open source Guidelines will be reflecting the current state-of-the-art and will serve to scale-up S-LCA and SOLCA and broaden their audience. The last two years are devoted to pilot testing and reinforcing the newly developed guidelines. The pilots will be deployed in a variety of industries¹, involving a range of organizations and product types. The learnings and best practices resulting from the road testing will be captured in a subsequent companion resource to the Guidelines.

The project is led by a consortium of five organisations active in the field of S-LCA, all present on the SLC Alliance Steering Committee: Institute of Sustainability for Civil Engineering (INaB), RWTH Aachen University, Harvard Extension School/New Earth, CIRAIG/UQÀM, World Resources Forum, Swedish Technical Institute and Chair of Sustainable Engineering (SEE), Technische Universität Berlin.

The Pescara Workshop – Objectives and Activities

The Pescara Workshop brought together 44 participants from 17 countries² and from a range of sectors (academia, consulting, industry, international organisations). The objectives of the workshop were manifold:

1. to offer a concrete opportunity for the S-LCA community to get involved in the revision process;
2. to work on and improve an initial Guidelines draft;
3. to identify outstanding issues (unaddressed by current draft) and where possible, resolve them;
4. to kick-off a SOLCA working group;

Offering an opportunity to get involved

¹ The industries will be determined by the fundraising effort results but we expect to engage at least with the textile/garment and agricultural sectors.

² More details on Participation can be found in section X, on p.2.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity for the S-LCA community to come together, network, contribute to and familiarize itself with the S-LCA Guidelines revision initiative. After an overview of the revision process was presented to all participants, the first day of the workshop focused on a 'Lighting Session'. This session was devoted to providing an overview of the different sections in the Guideline draft to all participants and to foment small-group discussions on the different sections. This Session aimed to help participants to get familiar with the overall Guideline draft and to provide first general feedback on it.

Improving the draft

An initial draft was circulated to all participants prior to their arrival in Pescara. Dedicated working groups composed of 5-8 participants had developed this initial draft over the previous 10 months. The document has 5 main areas of focus: introduction; goal & scope; inventory; impact assessment; positive impacts. Improving this initial draft and working towards gaining consensus was the core activity of the second day of the workshop – and a key objective of the event.

During 'Snail Sessions', all participants were invited to comment on and propose modifications to the draft, keeping in mind the overall objectives of the Guideline revision, which are to:

- Expand the audience of the guidelines and make it accessible to newcomers
- Focus on capability development of practitioners
- Cover methodological developments since 2009
- Recognize a plurality of established approaches
- Integrate SOLCA to extend the focus from products to organization
- Position S-LCA and SOLCA in the current policy and tools context
- Develop the areas where minimum guidance prevails
- To support contribution to the SDGs.

In order to promote in-depth, focused work on the drafts, participants were separated in small working groups during the day, where they delved deeply into one specific section of the draft (e.g., introduction, impact assessment, etc.).

Identifying Outstanding Issues

The workshop provided an opportunity to identify 'outstanding issues'. These are issues that are either emerging, overarching, or that cannot be immediately resolved – in short, they are issues that were not addressed by the initial draft. Dedicated flipcharts were made available to participants during the entire event, in order to list the unaddressed issues, as they emerged in conversations in the different working groups. The third day of the workshop (the morning) was devoted to discussing some of these issues in Plenary, more specifically issues that related to the creation, modification, or deletion of Stakeholder Categories or Impact Sub-categories.

Kicking off a SOLCA Working Group

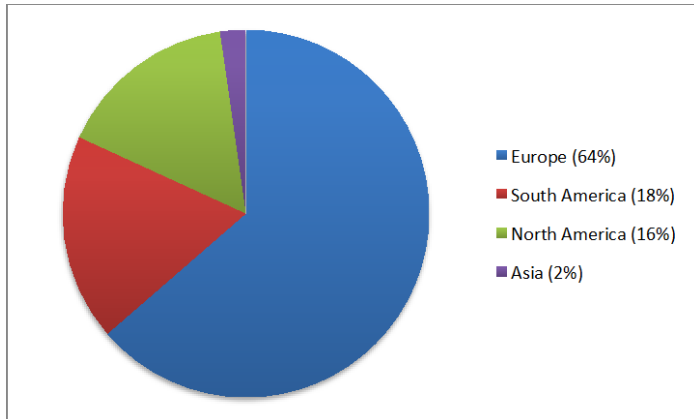
The workshop provided also an opportunity to identify participants interested to form a working group on SOLCA. This working group will focus on developing guidance on SOLCA in the revised Guidelines and ensuring its smooth integration with S-LCA guidance. Small-group discussions on

SOLCA were had during the first day and a working group including five participants was formed on the last day.

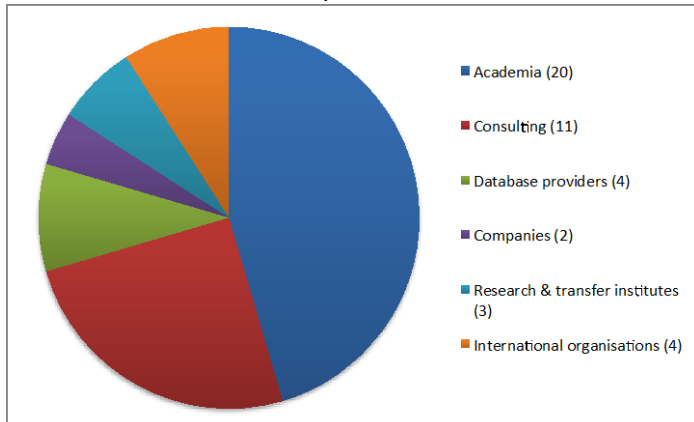
The Pescara Workshop – Participation

The workshop attracted wide participation. Overall, 44 participants from 17 countries, with the break down presented below. A list of participants is also added in the last section of this report.

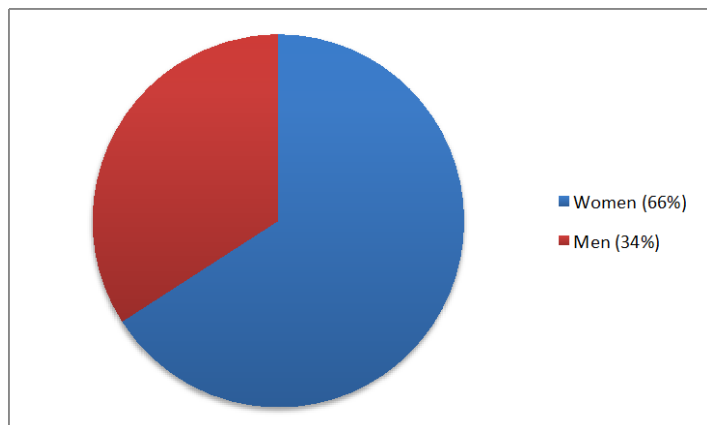
Breakdown of geographic areas represented:



Breakdown of sectors represented:



Breakdown of gender distribution:



The Pescara Workshop – Outcomes

Overall, the Pescara Workshop was a successful, constructive, and energizing event. The key outcomes of the event are:

- Wide participation and buy-in from the S-LCA community in the Guidelines revision process – as illustrated by the number of participants and the quality of the inputs during the workshop.
- Collection of numerous and valuable inputs for the improvement of the initial guideline draft. All sections of the initial draft were deeply commented on. Comments were also made about the overall coherence of the document. These inputs will greatly contribute to the improvement of the draft moving forward.
- Identification of a list of outstanding issues, which help to identify additions/changes that ought to be made in the current draft and issues to be debated in further meetings with participants.
- Kick-off of a SOLCA working group, with five members.
- Consensus on the audience targeted for the guidelines (budding S-LCA practitioners, CSR/sustainability experts in private sector, NGO, public sector)
- Clarification of the relationship of the Guidelines with ISO 14044 (Guidelines still follow main ISO 14044 steps and concepts, but depart from them where needed, given different subject matter. Table that shows convergence and divergence will be included in the guidelines).

The Pescara Workshop – Next steps

The Pescara Workshop is one important step in the journey of this project. The following next steps will follow in the short and medium term:

With regards to the advancement of the draft:

- Working group leads participating in the process will develop a revised version of the draft, based on the input collected in Pescara (for end of October 2018).
- The Steering Committee will undertake an in-depth revision of the draft, working on specific sections as well as the general coherence of the overall draft (from Nov 2018 – Feb 2019)
- Consultation with relevant groups.
- An online meeting will take place in order to continue a group discussion on the revision of the Stakeholder Categories and Impact Subcategories (January 2019 – tbc)

- A second face-to-face meeting open to all participants in the process will take place in Paris, to discuss the newly revised draft (April 2019).

With regards to governance:

- The Steering Committee will revise the timeline for the project, in order to clarify the specific steps after April 2019 (Fall 2018).
- The Steering Committee will convene an Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from industry, international organisations, NGOs, and public authorities (Fall 2018).

The Pescara Workshop – Schedule

Wednesday 12 September 2018 (Day 1 of Workshop)

TIME	SESSION/TASK
13:00	The S-LCA Conference ends
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Location: Aquarius Room
13:45 – 14:00	Registration to the Workshop For late arrivals. Location: Aquarius Room
14:00 – 15:15	Introductory session Presenting the workshop, its objectives, rules for exchanges; address questions. Location: Room de Tomasio
15:15 – 16:10	Lightning session – Part 1 Fast rounds of mini-sessions to get general feedback on all topics and get ideas/concerns from participants. There are 6 tables (4 WG, 1 SOLCA, 1 for other topics). Participants spend 25 mins in TWO DIFFERENT TABLES of their choosing. Location: Room de Tomasio and other rooms TBC
16:10 – 16:30	Coffee break Location: Aquarius Room
16:30 – 17:20	Lightning session – Part 2 Continuation of the Lighting Session, in new groups. Participants spend 25 mins in TWO DIFFERENT TABLES of their choosing. Location: Room de Tomasio and other rooms TBC
17:20 – 18:15	Plenary to report back 7 mins summaries from each Table. Location: Room de Tomasio
18:15 – 18:20	End of the day – Wrap up Location: Room de Tomasio

Thursday 13 September 2018 (Day 2 of Workshop)

TIME	SESSION/TASK
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction to Day 2 of the workshop Presenting the schedule for the day; Address questions. Location: Room de Tomasio

09:10 – 10:30	First Snail session – Part 1 Break-out session to provide feedback on developed drafts. There are 4 working groups. Each participant selects a topic on which they have not been involved in developing a draft. Location: Room de Tomasio and other rooms TBC
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break Location: Aquarius Room
10:45 – 12:00	First Snail session – Part 2 Continue break-out session within the same teams Location: Room de Tomasio and other rooms TBC
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Location: Aquarius Room
13:30 – 15:00	Second Snail session – Part 1 Break-out session to provide feedback on developed drafts. There are 4 working groups. Each participant selects a topic on which they have been involved in developing a draft. Location: Room de Tomasio and other rooms TBC
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break Location: Aquarius Room
15:15 – 16:30	Second Snail session – Part 2 Continue break-out session within the same teams Location: Room de Tomasio and other rooms TBC
16:30 – 16:45	Moment of transition – breather Participants take a breather before the plenary.
16:45 – 17:45	Plenary All working groups report to the group. To be communicated: 1) key debates had; 2) key substantial changes made; 3) key issues to deepen in coming months. 10 minutes summaries for each working group. Location: Room de Tomasio
17:45 – 17:55	End of the day – Wrap up Location: Room de Tomasio
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner Location: TBC

Friday 14 September 2018 (Day 3 of Workshop)

TIME	SESSION/TASK
09:00 – 09:05	Introduction to Day 3 of the workshop Presenting the schedule for the day; Address questions. Location: Room de Tomasio
09:05 – 10:30	Emerging issues session – Part 1 Discuss 2-3 overarching or emerging issues identified so far. Location: Room de Tomasio
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break Location: Aquarius Room
10:45 – 11:45	Emerging issues session – Part 2 Discuss 2-3 overarching or emerging issues identified so far. Location: Room de Tomasio
11:45 – 13:00	Round-up and Next Steps Location: Room de Tomasio
13:00	Closure