

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for pilot projects applying the S-LCA Guidelines 2020

Background

The Life Cycle Initiative (<https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org>) and the Social Life Cycle Alliance project consortium (<https://www.social-lca.org>) launched the project of revising the S-LCA Guidelines and conducting road testing of S-LCA and SO-LCA officially in June of 2018. The S-LCA Guidelines Revision is a 4-year project, under the umbrella of the UN Environment Life Cycle Initiative.

The objective of the revision of the 2009 Guidelines is to acknowledge the evolution and developments worldwide and to support broadening the practice, making the Guidelines a cornerstone reference for anyone wanting to conduct a Social LCA, Social Organizational Life Cycle Assessment, Social Footprint Assessment, Social Hotspots Assessment or a Human Rights Due Diligence Assessment.

The first two years are devoted to the revision of the 2009 UNEP-SETAC S-LCA Guidelines. We are organizing road-testing of the revised guidelines that will start at the end of 2019. The early pilot testing will provide feedback that will be included in the revised Guidelines. The full experiences gained throughout the process including the narrative and results of each pilot will be compiled in a complementary document to the 2020 S-LCA Guidelines to be published in 2021.

Pilots can be proposed by organization or partnership of organizations. They may include academic organization, private sector, consultancy, NGO, public sector, association or union. It is foreseen that project team will often include a private sector organization and a capacity building organization (eg. consultancy, research institute, NGO). A project can be also proposed by a single organization (e.g. company or academic institution) if it has demonstrated capacity.

Aims

The **S-LCA Guidelines pilot projects** are a global capacity development initiative that aim to develop capacity with the revised S-LCA Guidelines, collect feedback and experiences and create a practical companion document to the 2020 S-LCA Guidelines. The goals of the road-testing are:

- Build capacity on the new Social LCA Guidelines in diverse sectors and regions.
- Identify the need for additional specifications or clarifications.
- Test the methodology requirements and the clarity of the descriptions/ explanations/ requirements.
- Obtain direct feedback from practitioners.
- Provide clear illustrations of the usefulness of the methodology in different user case scenarios.
- Compile practical experiences applying Social LCA that could be replicated by other sectors and in other regions.
- Identify main difficulties and drawbacks/ success and highlights related to the application of the methodology.
- Share insights from the implementation of S-LCA and /or SO-LCA with available assessment methods and information.

Program timeline and phases

1. Call and selection of road-testers (04/24/19 to 08/30/2019)
2. Agree specific conditions with each road-tester (09/30/2019).
3. Kick-off-Web meeting and webinar with an introduction to the methodology and explanation on how to use the template (Oct 2019)
4. Web training (November 2019 and February 2020)
5. Implement the methodology (10-12 months)
6. Regular meetings (every 2-3 months). Individual or collective (common questions / confidentiality conflicts). Online or face-to-face (international conferences)
7. Obtain results according to the template and confidential reports from road-testers (02/28/2021)
8. Prepare summary reports for each of the road-testers (Feb 2021-April 2021)
9. Consolidation and lessons learned (April-May 2021)
10. Publication June 2021

Eligibility Criteria

The organization or partnership of organizations must demonstrate:

- 1) Commitment from the mandator organization to the pilot project (client);
- 2) Be involved in the areas of social issues and/or human rights and/or LCA and/or Social LCA;
- 3) Be able to identify at least one or two resource people in the partnership of organization to fill the following roles: project manager, analyst;
- 4) Sustained interest in Social LCA;

Cost

The participation to the pilot project will cost 6000\$ USD. This amount will provide for the training, follow-up, review of the project summaries and development of the report.

We will provide greater support to projects that request it. The specific cost(s) for conducting the Social LCA project will depend on the complexity of the product/ company and project, the number of consulting days, travel and types of data collection (as an estimate current Social LCA projects have a cost of: 20.000 \$-to 30.000 \$). The cost will be paid to one of the members of the Steering Committee that will lead the project (s) and support the company to do it.

Confidentiality

The road tester has the right to preserve the confidentiality of the generated data. However, the organization has to be comfortable with sharing a minimum level of data/ results to be included in the road-testing report. Road testers can define the part of the study that they want to make public (no need to share numerical results, for example).

Recognition

Be acknowledged in road testing report, SLC Alliance website and on the website of UN Environment Life Cycle Initiative Social LCA project page and in communication about the pilot projects.

The road tester can contact the flagship project secretariat for burning questions and specific cases. Follow-up every 2/3 months. Community/ network of road testers – peers to peers.

Formal issues

We will be able to sign a confidentiality agreement, but the road tester has to be aware that the results must be published in some form.

Publication or outcome

1. Report summarizing the pilot projects, outcomes and lessons learned.
2. Leaflet.
3. Early feedback integrated directly in the revised Guidelines.

Application procedure

Step 1: Complete the 'Expression of Interest Form'

Step 2: Attach a cover letter from your organization according to the following guidelines:

- 1) Title "Application for S-LCA pilot project"
- 2) Description of the organization/ team or partnership
- 3) Description of the pilot project
- 4) Bio of the main resource people
- 5) Signed statement on commitment

Step 3: Send an electronic copy of the documentation, including a copy of the cover Letter, to contact@social-lca.org

For further information, please contact catherine@socialhotspot.org, marzia.traverso@inab.rwth-aachen.de or matthias.finkbeiner@tu-berlin.de

Selection Criteria

Applications received by teams that have submitted all required documentation will be reviewed by the steering committee and advisory committee. Applicants will be notified accordingly.

Expression of Interest Form

This Expression of Interest Form can be completed electronically by pressing the 'Tab' key or clicking with your mouse on the grey text boxes and check boxes, or in hardcopy.

Your contact details	
Name of organization	
Address	
Contact person	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Fax	
Name of partner organization/s (if any)	
Address	

Questions – Organization

1. What is your organization's mission, capacity and experience in the area of social issues/ human rights/ LCA or Social LCA? How many years has your organization been involved in this area?

2. What is your organization size/ main location(s)?

3. What is the organization and/or project sector/ industry?

4. With which categories does your organization include partnerships with? Please check one or more boxes.

- a. Academic institutions
- b. Consultancy
- c. Government at all levels
- d. Non-governmental organizations
- e. Unions
- f. Associations
- g. Private sector

5. What is the organization's capacity and experience in the area of Social LCA?

6. Do you have one or two more members with the capacity and appropriate experience to work in the pilot that cover the following roles: project manager, analyst? **Yes** **No**

7. How can the project team's skills obtained from this program be integrated and applied in the organization's future activities or elsewhere?

8. What is the anticipated impact of participation in this pilot project?

Any further comments