Life cycle analysis and carbon footprint, uses and limitations in public procurement ☑

Data of Your Paper ☑

Topic

○ Resilience

○ Lifestyle

○ Building

◉ Resources

○ Tourism

○ Energy

Title of the Paper
Life cycle analysis and carbon footprint, uses and limitations in public procurement

Form of Presantation

○ Poster

◉ Presentation

Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a process to evaluate the environmental burdens and impacts associated with a product, process, or activity throughout its life cycle (from cradle to grave), that is from the extraction of materials, its processing, manufacturing, transportation, use and disposal.
When this assessment focuses only on impacts in terms of greenhouse gases emissions during the life cycle of the product or activity, we have the Carbon Footprint (CF) of that product/activity.

Green Public Procurement (GPP), on the other hand, is the process by which public authorities introduce environmental criteria in their purchasing activities. GPP implementation across Europe has increased since its origins in the 80s thanks to the growing availability of green products and services, clearer legal certainties and strong political support. This support has transformed public procurement into a powerful economic instrument that has to be used to achieve the objectives set in all kind of policies (from economic, to innovation, environmental and social strategies and plans).

But how is green defined in public procurement, what tools and resources are used to set the environmental criteria to be introduced in procurement processes?

Most countries and also at EU level define their green criteria based on existing regulations and on ecolabels, applying a life-cycle thinking perspective and consulting with the market.

However there is a growing pressure and interest in using full LCA and CF. The first one as a tool to demonstrate the overall impact of a product or activity. CF as climate protection is still a major priority in many public authorities.

Nevertheless, its use in public procurement is still reduced due to several limitation of these tools linked to the tools themselves and the legal constraints of public

procurement.

Therefore this presentation will try to highlight and present from the public procurement perspective why LCA and CF are not yet widely used in GPP (what are the main factors difficulting its use) in comparison to other voluntary systems and information sources (such as ecolabels, environmental management systems and regulations)- based on the degree of complexity, harmonisation, reliability of data, comparability of offers and constraints imposed by the procurement Directives. It will also try to propose ways to progress on its use in a way that doesn't conflict with public procurement regulations at EU level.

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