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# Life Cycle Catalyst #5



## Life is a cycle... what goes around comes around

January 2022

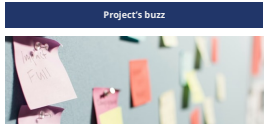


Welcome to 2022! The year has not even properly started that we are already working with all speed. Indeed, this summer we will be closing the phase of interregional exchange of experience, and we want to be fully equipped to implement the different actions aimed to improve our regional policy instruments.

In the coming months, we will not only finalise our **Action Plans** – specifying the nature of the actions to be implemented, their time frame, stakeholders involved, the costs and funding sources – but also travel (virtually or not, let's see!) to Banco dellegato (IT) for our last Transnational Learning (TL) focused on these Action Plans. Above all, we will share with you the result of our work. What can you look forward to? A **guide compiling over 20 of the most relevant of the 57 Good Practices** we identified, a **high-level political event** in Brussels, a **video** on our achievements, and a **Policy Roadmap**. We trust you, it will be stories until the summer!

But before jumping to the exciting challenges ahead of us, please first in this new issue of the Life Cycle Catalyst a summary of what happened in our adventure since last July. This article has been marked by no less than five TLs, headed by the **Loddzkie Region (PL)** on **training and capacity building in LCA** and by the **Lombardy Region (IT)** on **LCA for monitoring and evaluating policies**.

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### The project now counts with 57 Good Practices

With the upcoming end of the phase of interregional exchange, the LCA4Regions partners are closing the identification of Good Practices. In total, it is no less than 57 Good Practices that you can discover in this project, they all focus on the use of life cycle assessment and management to tackle different environmental issues with the aim of implementing more holistic and sustainable regional policies.

### LCA4Regions in the news

Semester after semester, the LCA4Regions project is attracting more and more media attention. The summer people from Portugal, Spain, and Italy could read about us. Maybe you have spotted these articles in your local newspapers? In addition, a more detailed article in the scientific journal "Sustainability" drew on selected LCA4Regions Good Practices to discuss how regions worldwide are employing life cycle procedures to improve their sustainability performances.



### Life cycle methodologies for Regional Sustainable Development

A paper entitled "Life cycle methodologies (LCM) for regional sustainable development" was presented at the 10th International Conference on Life Cycle Management (ICLM2021). It examines how regional authorities use LCM concepts and tools in their sustainable development policies and actions, building on the previous analysis of the LCA4Regions study on their sustainability policies but they are also highlighted by lack of political commitment, LCA understanding in their organisations, and by the perceived cost of LCA procedures.



### The Life Cycle route, fifth stop: Lodzkie Region

#### Transversal skills and vocational training for LCA should be explored to accelerate the integration of LCA in public policies

Following the 5th TL hosted by the Lodzkie Region in September, the LCA4Regions partners concluded that training opportunities exist but are spread out. In addition to increasing the cooperation between LCA training providers, they recommended widening the scope of these trainings to focus also on how to implement the results of an LCA. Another way to mainstream LCA would be to train not only experts and researchers but also those who benefit from it: the citizens, organisations, and environmentalists.



#### Witamy w Województwie Łódzkim

The Lodzkie Region is one of the most dynamically developing regions in Poland, included in the list of the most competitive regions of Europe. As part of its regional development, the region focuses on smart specialisations and has pioneered circular economy since early 2020s. Read more on how Lodzkie promotes the idea of circular economy entrepreneurship and actively involves its academic sector in energy efficiency and LCA initiatives in the short presentation that we prepared on the host office 5th TL.

#### Good Practices and Study cases of training and capacity building in LCA

During the 2nd day of the 5th LCA4Regions partners presented 7 Good Practices of training and capacity building in LCA implemented on their territories. After that, students of the Lodz University of Technology presented two innovative projects: namely biodegradable disposable tableware from food waste and Apple Leather.



#### Lodzkie's policy context under review

Participants of the 5th TL shared their opinion on the regional context of the Lodzkie Region following three observations: adequacy of policy instruments to enhance resource efficiency and environmental protection; use of LCA in the application of the policy instruments; potential of replication of the experiences presented. They could base their evaluation on a short analysis of Lodzkie's Policy Instruments and legal framework.



### The Life Cycle route, fifth stop: Lombardy Region



#### Integrating LCA wider methodologies in measuring frameworks is a promising path to monitor local circular economy

Gathered in Milan, the LCA4Regions partners explored how LCA and LC thinking approaches can support the monitoring and evaluation of policies. The different perspectives discussed point in the same direction: using the benefits it brings, further efforts should be taken to develop circular economy indicators based on LCA.

#### Good Practices of LCA for monitoring and evaluating policies and study cases

Thanks to the 5th TL partners discovered 6 Good Practices of LCA for monitoring and evaluating policies such as the Life-cycle Building Sustainability Assessment System (LCSBAS) in the Milan Municipality, the programme of the National Registry of Carbon Footprints of Navarra. A study visit also took them to two emblematic places of Milan where it comes to food waste prevention and community: the Milano Food Hub and the Belfortino/Ambrosiano.



#### Renewetti in Lombardia

Which region has the fifth largest GDP among European regions and is the first manufacturing region in Italy? Lombardy, the first of the 5th TL. In the last five years, the region witnessed many pioneering urban locations, relative to circular economy that have been recently framed into a first regional Roadmap focused on Research and Innovation in Circular Economy. When it comes to LCA, the approach is supporting the Waste Management Regional Programme, in particular regarding construction and demolition waste.

#### Questions and answers on the policy context of Lombardy

Lombardy produced a detailed document on the use of LCA in its policies, focusing on the energy efficiency and building sector with the ambitious objective of interlinking into energy efficiency the evaluation of other impacts, especially on resources use. Following this, partners could ask questions and make comments. For example on the cost of preparing large LCA analysis or if the region plans to move to low carbon energy sources.



The LCA4Regions project - Improved Environment and Resource Efficiency through use of Life Cycle Instruments for assessment of regional policies in the European Union - aims at promoting life cycle assessment in policy instruments through the consolidation of the LCA Policy Assessment methodology. More information about the project on <https://www.lca4regions.eu/>



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