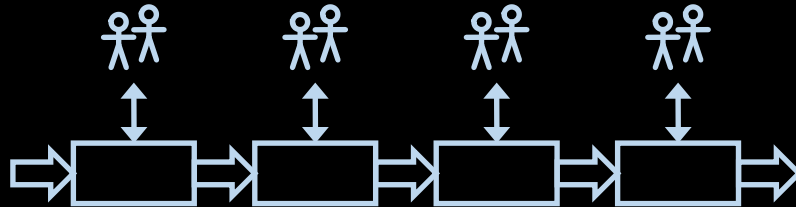


# Swedish experience of social LCA

Mathias Lindkvist, Environmental Systems Analysis, Chalmers University of Technology  
Maria Rydberg, Swedish Life Cycle Center

2 June 2020

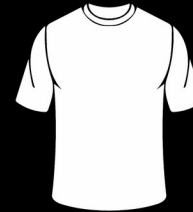


# Social-sustainability challenges

Social-sustainability challenges in product chains

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Social life-cycle-assessment (SLCA) (2009)



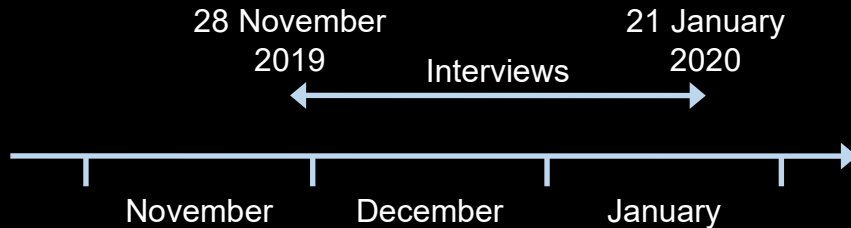
Limited degree of knowledge on SLCA

Regarding informing decision-making and communication

Regarding carrying its costs

# The study: Outline

Aim: Mapping SLCA-experience and -consideration



Sweden due to life-cycle prominence

# The study: Organisations

11 studied organisations in Sweden

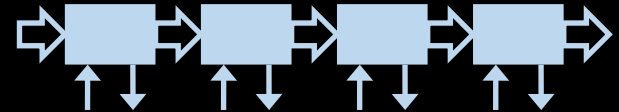
Substantially interested in life-cycle perspectives

6 businesses

5 intermediaries: research institutes; government agencies

Businesses: 5,000–100,000 employees worldwide each

Intermediaries: 100–10,000 employees worldwide each



# The study: Interviews

13 explorative interviews with 14 interviewees

10 15-70 minutes interviews

3 e-mail interviews

Covers 11 of the 13 contacted organisations





Aspect	Number of businesses	Number of intermediaries	Total
<b>Has used SLCA</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>SLCA-interest</b>	<b>Reasons for interest not obvious</b>		
<i>Input on usage opportunities</i>			
<b>Relevant issues</b>	5	2	<b>7</b>
Long chains	2	1	3
Scientific	1	-	1
<i>Input on potential usage limitation</i>			
Non-holistic	-	1	1
Arbitrary	-	1	1
Non-specific	2	2	4
Discontinuing	1	1	2
<b>Impractical</b>	4	3	<b>7</b>
Not transparent	1	1	2
Unfocused	4	-	4
Non-effective	-	1	1

# Results, overview

# Results, SLCA experience

## 1 business

Tested in environmental communication framework

Very difficult to communicate

## 1 intermediary

With businesses: development and evaluation

Gives overview but missing practical guidelines



# Results, SLCA-interest

Only few and short reasons given

Potentially: risks, regulation, advantage, and orientation

SLCA-interest might be strongly justified



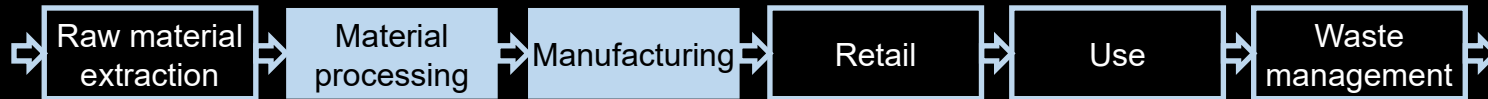


# Results, SLCA opportunities

Relevant issues: Child labour, corruption, employment, ...

Long chains: Addition to direct suppliers

Scientific: Can attract research and development



# Results, possible SLCA limitations: Methodology

## Contents

Non-holistic: Regarding sustainability over time

Arbitrary: Regarding selecting impacts to study

Non-specific: Regarding site and time



## Procedure

Discontinuing: Regarding improvements and moves

# Results, possible SLCA limitations: Application

## How

Impractical: Costly, difficult, time-consuming, immature

Not transparent: Difficult to present results

Unfocused: Would like good risk-lists

## For whom

Non-effective: Not much targeting retail



# Discussion

Interviewees were found to be representative

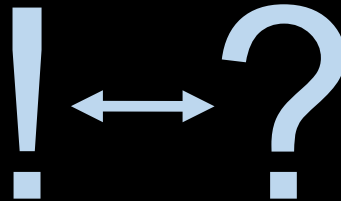
Literature covers few of the findings

Particularly regarding simplifying SLCA

# Conclusion

Possible contradiction: simplified versus comprehensive

Poses new directions for SLCA development?



# Further reading

Report: “Insights on social life-cycle-assessment in practice in Sweden”

Free to access at <https://www.lifecyclecenter.se/publications/>