

## Partnership

This is a value-adding partnership

- Obtain tools and inspiration for new strategies and working processes to implement in your operations.
- Benchmark the partners within the center.
- Collaborate in joint research projects with academia, research institutes and partners in industry and authorities involved.
- Increase your knowledge through close contact with other experts within the life cycle field.
- Be highlighted as a frontrunner in sustainability. Your good examples, research or initiatives are communicated in the channels of Swedish Life Cycle Center.
- Obtain access to high quality decision support and a network of over 400 life cycle professionals.
- Get involved in strategic development through your seat on the center Board.
- Find new ways to manage long-term sustainability.
- Use the web forum for close contact with partners.
- Make a larger impact through joint efforts to influence national and international initiatives.

Partners in Swedish Life Cycle Center are:

- Committed to sustainable development and to life cycle thinking and have their own involvement in and resources for these commitments.
- Interested in initiating and being part of joint activities within the center.
- Interested in developing science-based ways of working to create credible cross-sectoral solutions.

### Obligations


- Adhere to the vision of Swedish Life Cycle Center
- Annual partnership
- Three years of commitment
- Advocate of Swedish Life Cycle Center and its common vision, mission and goals
- Be engaged and get involved in activities as well as stimulate others engagement


### \* List of abbreviations


- PEF = Product Environmental Footprint, initiated by the European Commission.
- OEF = Organisation Environmental Footprint, initiated by the European Commission.
- GLAD = The Global LCA Data Access network, lead by UN Environment.
- FSLCI = Forum for Sustainability through Life Cycle Innovation, a global multi-stakeholder community organization.
- SDSN = UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

### Contact

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 Swedish Life Cycle Center

 @Lifecyclecenter



# STAGE 9

01-01-2019 – 31-12-2021

## Operational plan - Appendix A

*Swedish Life Cycle Center is a center of excellence for competence building and knowledge exchange to drive the life cycle field forward. We co-create an arena for universities, research institutes, industrial players and authorities to collaborate in.*

### Partners 2019



### In collaboration with



### Swedish Life Cycle Center

Chalmers University of Technology  
Department: Technology Management and Economics  
Area of Advance: Production

Text by Technical Secretariat  
Layout by Ulrika Georgsson

### General information

This operational plan is an appendix (Appendix A) to the main agreement for the Swedish Life Cycle Center Stage 9 (2019-2021).

### Approved by the Board

20-11-2018

### Complementary documents

This operational plan is one of the center's steering documents, which are available for partners on [lifecyclecenter.se](http://lifecyclecenter.se).

## The societal challenge

We are collectively facing immense challenges with unsustainable consumption and production systems which lead to an increased burden on the environment and on society. A better understanding of the life cycle perspective is a key to achieving sustainable solutions (environmental, social and economic). In our global world, decisions rarely only make an impact within a country's national borders or in a company's own production. Society consists of a chain of organizations and individuals, moving resources. The only way to address sustainability issues on a long-term basis is with a holistic life cycle perspective, which aims for resource efficiency and minimized environmental and social impacts without suboptimal solutions, while also creating new business opportunities and innovations.

### A life cycle perspective

One of the advantages of a life cycle perspective is the focus on different parts of consumption and production systems and the links between them. It highlights the fact that actions at one end of the value chain also affect other parts of the chain. With a life cycle perspective, suboptimization can be avoided, and optimizations made in value chains are encouraged. In other words, a life cycle perspective is necessary for real sustainable improvements.

To address major societal challenges in a comprehensive manner, the life cycle concept provides a means of increasing efficiency, reducing environmental and societal impacts and conserving resources. All processes are covered – from raw material acquisition to the end-of-life and next life of a product, via production and the use phase. Both physical and monetary flows are covered within the life cycle concept, which illustrates how the entire chain of actors work together to create products and services.

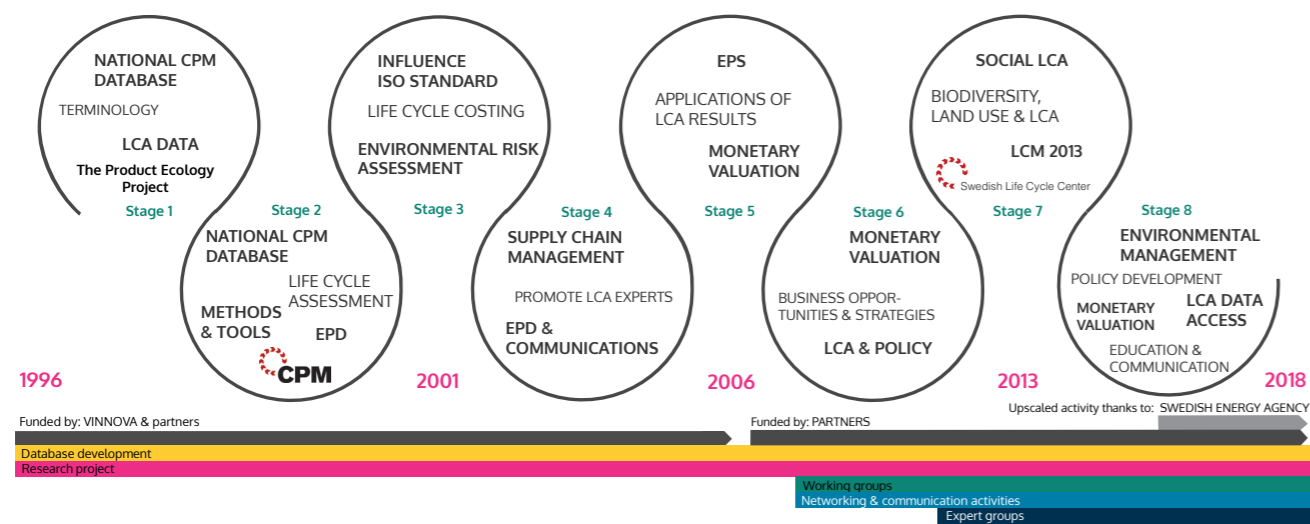


Figure 1: Decades of continuous collaboration

Swedish Life Cycle Center was founded under the name CPM as a joint initiative between Nutek (now VINNOVA), Chalmers University of Technology and several international organizations. Since its inception in 1996, eight stages, each lasting 2-3 years, have been accomplished. Over the years, the center has contributed in several ways, such as by initiating, leading and giving input to new ISO standards, creating tools to simplify life cycle assessments, and launching an open LCA database. Partner constellations and focus areas have varied over time, but the field has remained the same — life cycle assessment and life cycle thinking.

### Our reason to be

We believe that a life cycle perspective should be a natural, integrated cornerstone in processes and decision making at all levels in business as well as in political governance. We are committed to providing platforms for mutual learning and knowledge exchange within and between different sectors such as academia, research institutes, industry and authorities. We are convinced that this is the solution to approach more sustainable consumption and production patterns, increased resource efficiency and a more circular economy.

## Vision, mission & strategy

### Mission

### Credible and applied life cycle thinking globally – Our vision

Our mission is to work for the integration of the life cycle perspective into processes and decision making in industry, government policy and other parts of society, developing products and services with increased resource efficiency that enhances sustainable consumption and production patterns. This should open up possibilities of working towards a more circular economy and meet common sustainability challenges and sustainable development goals.

### Strategic ways of working:

Develop and secure relevant and scientifically based methods, practices and tools.



Support competence and knowledge building.



Influence national and international initiatives.



### Strategic focus areas

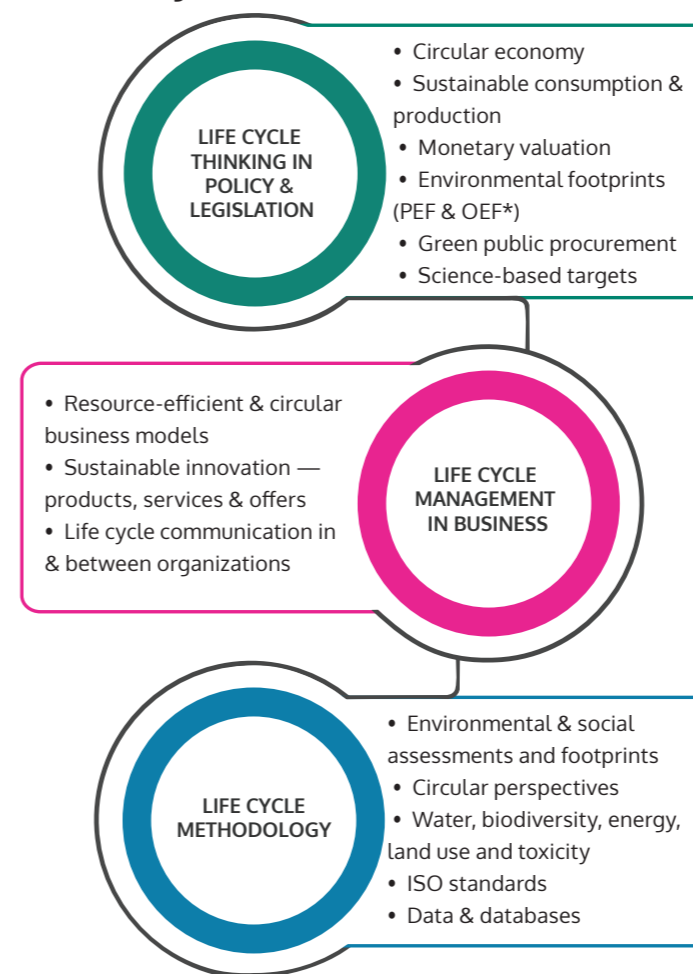


Figure 2: Strategic focus areas

Strategic focus areas and their sub areas are based on the vision, mission and strategic ways of working.

## Management & organization

Swedish Life Cycle Center is an organization based on intangible assets with its human resources and excellence distributed among its partners. Chalmers University of Technology hosts the center. The permanent organization consists of a Board on which each partner is represented, a Preparatory Board, a Scientific Advisory Group and a Technical Secretariat (run by a Director, Project Managers and a Communications Officer). Committees, working groups, expert groups and project groups are established by the Board. Close collaboration with Swedish government agencies also takes place.

## How we work

### Transparency, openness, credibility, science & cross-sectoral solutions

– Our values and principles on which we build our work

#### Research projects

Swedish Life Cycle Center has a scientific base, gained from collaboration between the center's partners in cross-sector research projects. We also run other types of projects, which focus on communication, coordination and

collaboration in strategic joint efforts.

#### Working groups and expert groups

The working groups aim to build up competence and exchange experience and information between experts. The groups manage discussions about hands-on issues, methodologies and how to apply them, new research questions and joint strategic intelligence. We also coordinate expert groups for specific tasks or advisory support.

#### Communication and networking activities

Our main communication and networking activities are workshops, seminars, webinars, courses and network conferences. These activities are either exclusive to partners or public. For instance, networking activities lead to realizing this operational plan. Our communication channels include LinkedIn, Twitter, public and partner-exclusive newsletters, our website and our web forum.

## Expected outcomes of Stage 9

At the end of Stage 9, with regular follow-ups to set activities and to meet partners' identified needs, the following outcomes are expected to be achieved within each strategic way of working:

#### Secure relevant and scientifically based methods, practices and tools



- Continued dissemination and publication of results, such as reports, tools, position papers, working papers and other documents in selected communication channels.
- Continued support for the development of life cycle methods and their applications in strategic focus areas (see figure 2).
- Promote sustainable actions through science-based approaches and availability of data.
- Work towards increased harmonization for monetary valuation through the development of methods and applications.

#### Support the competence and knowledge building



- Shared value through:
  1. Cross-sector knowledge sharing between partners.
  2. Networking activities for doctoral students.
  3. Continued collaboration with the extended network (SMEs, cutting-edge firms, authorities and funding agencies).
- Facilitate knowledge transfer by customizing support to different roles in organizations on how to apply life cycle perspectives in decision making.

#### Influence national and international initiatives



- Be an active part of the global life cycle community, e.g. UN Environment's Life Cycle Initiative, FSLCI, SDSN, GLAD\*.
- Actively support issues related to global and national goals, by working with and implementing key aspects and integrating life cycle perspectives in public policy making (e.g. circular economy, PEF & OEF\*, Agenda 2030, national reference databases, standardizations etc.).
- Help to enable green public procurement by setting requirements beyond harmonized EU legislation.