

UNEP/OECD Workshop

“Sustainable Resource and Materials Management”

UNEP/SETAC LCA Database Registry

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Agenda

- UNEP/SETAC Database Registry: what it is
- Status, relevance, outlook

1. UNEP/SETAC Database Registry: what it is

Overview of the UNEP/SETAC database registry project

- aim:

- * connect LCA data providers and users that search for LCA data, and
 - * become a "focal point" where information about international, sectoral, national, commercial and non commercial databases for life cycle approaches worldwide can be found.
- general support by a survey in 2008
- now a "living system" will be implemented with the aim to have a solution that fits for first applications.

Overview of the UNEP/SETAC database registry project

- addressees:

- * data providers

(no preconditions for providing data)

- * data users

(Life Cycle practitioners, scientists, ... , in search of suitable data).

- idea:

- * connect available data of high quality (and providers)

- * and users that look for data, worldwide

UNEP/SETAC database registry project guiding principle:

Reflexive nature of data quality.

Data quality not an absolute property.

„ISO 14040 defines data quality as “characteristics of data that relate to their ability to satisfy stated requirements”; you could also say: “beauty is in the eye of the beholder”. Transferred to the task of the database registry this means that it is not an absolute property of a data set to be of high or low quality. Rather, data quality is result of properties of a data set and of what users require from the data set”.

UNEP/SETAC database registry project - guiding principle



Data quality not an absolute property: consequences

- data quality is result of how well stated requirements from users and properties of data match
 - responsibility to allow good ways to state requirements (us, today and upcoming weeks)
 - need to state requirements (data users) and to provide data properties (data providers, project team?)
 - responsibility to use the data as specified (users)
 - need for control mechanisms?

2. Status, relevance, outlook

UNEP/SETAC database registry project status

- detailed specification disseminated October 09
- currently implementation on server
- interaction with major data providers worldwide
- domain: www.lca-data.org
- go live this month?

UNEP/SETAC database registry project

Relevance & outlook

The UNEP/SETAC database registry will allow users to find best quality life-cycle based data worldwide, crossing existing boundaries (format, software tools, methods, databases)

The UNEP/SETAC database registry will enable data providers access to a worldwide user community, crossing existing boundaries (format, software tools, databases)

It will help establish a market place for LC based data.

Thank you!

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