



# CALCAS Project: an overview

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# CALCAS Objectives

*Going beyond the boundaries of ISO-LCA, by identifying the supply and demand of science for addressing sustainability questions*

- Definition of research lines to promote the innovation in LCA; methods to make LCA more suitable for sustainability decision making of micro, meso and macro systems, will be identified by:
  - Deepening LCA, i.e. improving ISO-LCA in areas such as system boundaries, allocation methods, dynamics etc.
  - Broadening LCA, i.e. including economic and social aspects
  - Leaping forward, i.e. reviewing the scientific paradigm





# CALCAS in numbers

- Partners:



- CML, WI, IVL, ESF, UNEP/SETAC LCI, JRC IES, ARMINES, IST, FUB, IOEW, UNIMAN, CHEMISTRY INN.

- Duration: 30 months from 1/9/2006

- Budget: 1.4 M€

- Informative web site:

[www.calcasproject.net](http://www.calcasproject.net)





# From “current”...



- ISO-LCA with its simplifications has been the driving power for LCA diffusion, but it has limitations regarding empirical mechanisms, spatial/temporal aspects and economic/social parameters
- Current LCA is restricted to the Technosphere analysis, with some links to Biosphere and Geosphere.
- Link to Economy now is very limited
- Link to broader mechanisms in society it is mainly lacking.
- Time and space limitations
- Lack of interlinkage between micro level choices with macro level policies





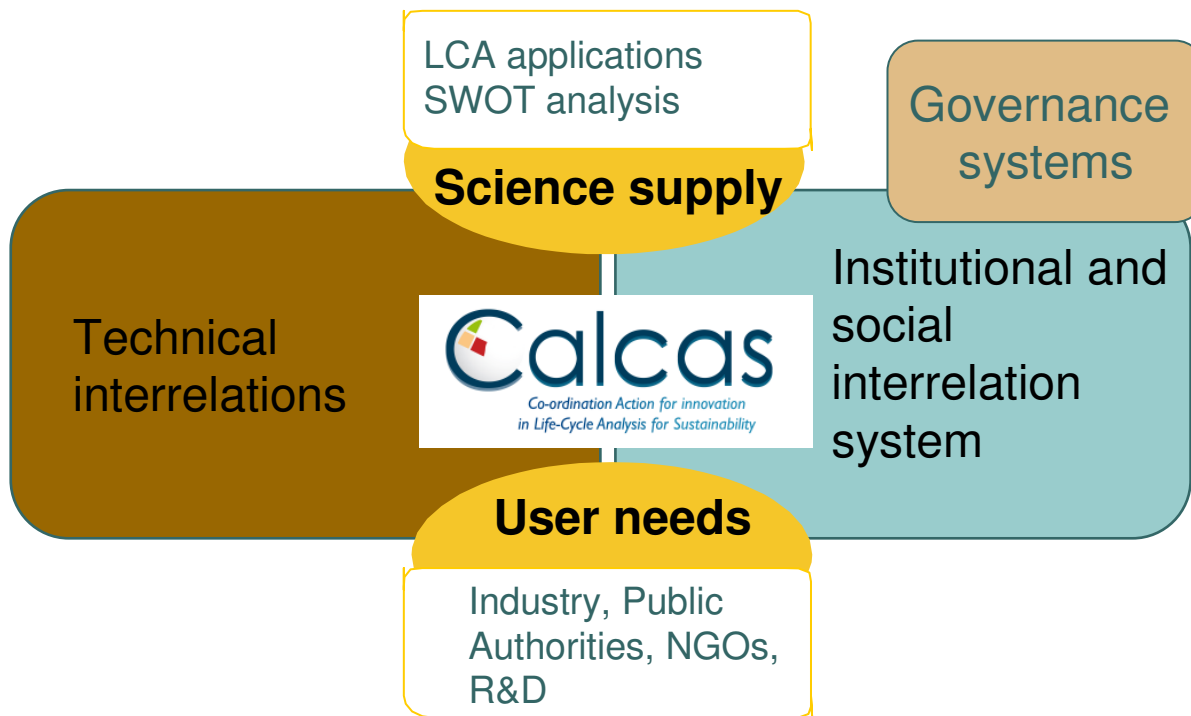
## ... to “new” LCA

- Besides ISO-LCA various other LCA approaches have emerged taking into account more type of externalities (economic and social costs), more mechanisms, handling of time, handling of space and/or meeting specific user needs such as in simplified LCA.
- Different LCA approaches to support sustainability decision-making, due to
  - the complexity of “sustainability”,
  - the variability of the decision contexts,
  - the different applications/goals of LCA studies (from operative action to strategies, from micro to macro level)





# How CALCAS address the question





# Method of work

- Working groups
- Workshops:
  - LCA and governance (Brussels 27-28/09/07)
  - Users, with special emphasis to ETP (Brussels April 2008)
- Development of a “Blue Paper”, its dissemination and comments collection
- Large final symposium
- Intermediate and final results of the project input to the Commission for preparation of research calls





# Status

- Scope and Scientific framework
- Identification of “other” methods to be included in the SWOT analysis
- Interviews with key users on present and future perceived needs on sustainability assessment methods for decision making
- Critical review of LCA applications
- Seminar with external experts “Digression Meeting”
- **Workshop on LCA and Governance**







# Next milestones



- Internal discussion “Convergence Meeting” on results of the analyses on science supply and user needs
- Large workshop with “users” with special attention to ETP (April 08, Brussels)

