

FineFuture

SEPTEMBER 2021 #12

FINE FUTURE PRESENTED AT PROMETIA LCA SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR 2021

The Prometia association organised the LCA scientific symposium. The events' primary focus was on linking the sustainability assessment (targeting economic, environmental and social impacts) as a critical element for the industrial development to the mining and recycling sector-specific needs. More specifically, the environmental benefit associated with any new technical solutions needs to be demonstrated using tools such as the carbon footprint or the Life Cycle Analysis (that will include more environmental impact categories than only the greenhouse gas emissions). These methods are used more frequently now by the Mining and Recycling sector. However, they still need more awareness to be accepted as reliable decision-making tools. New impact indicators should be developed to reflect/qualify/quantify the contribution of new processes, new productions, new sectors to the circular economy. New LCA methodologies are also needed to reflect dynamic transitional systems.

During the 9th scientific seminar of the PROMETIA, the focus areas were:

- How to address the scientific and technical challenges associated with LCA and carbon footprint methods in connection with mining and recycling specificities;
- How to present case studies from industry and R&D;
- How to present new methodology developments related to the raw materials and circular economy;
- How to Stimulate collaboration between LCA experts and process engineers/researchers.

During the event, Politecnico di Milano expert, Lucia Rigamonti on behalf of the FineFuture project, presented a paper entitled "The sustainability assessment in the FineFuture project with a focus on LCA."

In her presentation, Mrs Rigamonti presented the setting up of the sustainability assessment in the FineFuture project. She explained that the analysis deals with the development of Environmental Life Cycle Assessment (E-LCA), Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA), and Life cycle costing (LCC) studies for the different applications of the FineFuture emerging flotation technology. She explained the case studies that have been selected, the challenges faced in the definition of the functional unit and data collection, and the methodological choices made for the S-LCA and the LCC."

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