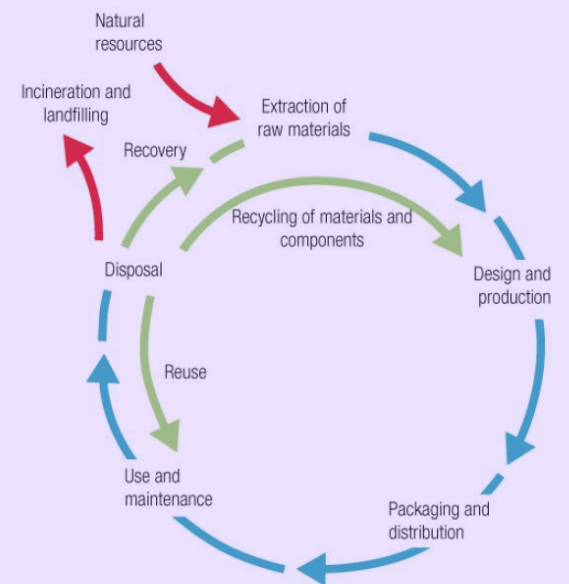


What is Life Cycle Thinking?

Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) is about going beyond the traditional focus on production site and manufacturing processes to include environmental, social and economic impacts of a product over its entire life cycle. The main goals of LCT are to reduce a product's resource use and emissions to the environment as well as improve its socio-economic performance through its life cycle. This may facilitate links between the economic, social and environmental dimensions within an organization and through its entire value chain.



With the support from the EU funded SwitchMed Programme, the E-Learning Module 1 has been translated into Arabic and French and supports as capacity building tool for the implementation of the Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans (SCP-NAPs) and Sustainable Development Goal 12. Now, the course is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).



Looking at the industrial sector, taking LCT as an approach means going beyond the more narrow traditional focus on an enterprise's production facility. A product life cycle can begin with the extraction of raw materials from natural resources in the ground and the energy generation. Materials and energy are then part of production, packaging, distribution, use, maintenance, and eventually recycling, reuse, recovery or final disposal.

The E-Learning Module

This free online module kit contains three courses: Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking, Life Cycle Thinking in business decision making and Life Cycle Thinking in policy making. They were developed containing broad knowledge on life cycle approaches.

Module 1: Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking

Drawing on materials from the Life Cycle Initiative, this two-hour course gives an overview of life cycle approaches while developing understanding of how to assess the impacts of any given sustainability issue considering all its life cycle stages. The module also provide guidance on which kind of LCT tools are to be used to which purpose.

- Block 1: Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking
- Block 2: Drive Change in Public Policies
- Block 3: Drive Change in Business
- Block 4: Drive Change in Sustainable Lifestyles

<http://www.learnlifecycle.com/collections>

Module 2: Life Cycle Thinking in business decision making

Gives an overview of how to use life cycle thinking within businesses, including impacts that extend beyond their direct control. The module introduces case studies of how life cycle thinking has been applied by businesses globally, and provides an understanding of various life cycle thinking tools, and when and how to apply them. It is available in English and Spanish.

Module 3: Life Cycle Thinking in policy making

Gives an overview of how to use life cycle thinking within policy making, including how it can help weigh up the impacts of individual policy choices on a whole system. The module is illustrated with case studies on policies from the transport, waste and food and agriculture sectors. It is available in English and Spanish.

What is Life Cycle Initiative

Since 2002 the Life Cycle Initiative hosted by UNEP has contributed towards enhancing the capacities and skills on Life Cycle Thinking (LCT), Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and Life Cycle Management (LCM) worldwide. It is a science-based, consensus-building process to support decisions of business and governments towards the shared vision of sustainable development. The Initiative involves active institutional members from three broad constituencies (government, business, science and civil society), and individual members from science and civil society.



LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE

Science-based, consensus-building process to support decisions of business and governments towards the shared vision of sustainable development



<https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/>

UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. www.switchmed.eu