

## Institutions: The LCA-Society of Italy

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The Italian Society of LCA ("Associazione Italiana di Analisi del Ciclo di Vita") was officially established in March 1999 at the Environment Park of Turin.

After about two years of meetings, and an exchange of information and ideas via e-mail, the legal form of the association and its location were finally agreed upon.

Environment Park is a Science and Technology Park dedicated to environmental technologies. Since Environment Park has the primary purpose of promoting the development of applied environmental research and facilitating the integration of environmental variables and factors into the process of production, as well as bringing the world's researchers and businesses together, the unification with the Italian Society of LCA seemed to be a good opportunity both for the site and the common objectives.

With over 50 members representing the most important industries (ABB, ENI, FIAT, ITALTEL, PIRELLI, TELECOM), universities (Bari, Bologna, Torino, Palermo), research centres (ENEA, Fiat Research Centre), environmental agencies (national and local EPAs) and consulting companies (Boustead, Ecobilan, Take Care), it is now the most important reference point for LCA activities in Italy.

The promotion of LCA development, as well as the review of proposed legislation and environmental standards with LCA implications, is the primary mandate of the association. Sev-

eral operative actions, such as the definition of discussion panels (e.g. on Life Cycle Impact Assessment, Life Cycle Costing, Energy systems, ...), organisation of seminars and internal working groups, are ongoing. Furthermore, according to EPA indications, the possibility to create an internal board for critically reviewing LCA public works in Italy is also being considered.

Environment Park (Turin) and ENEA (Bologna) will house two open libraries containing papers and books, while a web site will ensure up to date information about news and events. The growing presence of students working in this field in Italy now has the possibility of looking for information in a few places and of receiving assistance from LCA practitioners via e-mail.

Some members are present on international boards such as SETAC's Steering Committee and the ISO working groups for the 14.040 series.

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