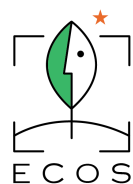
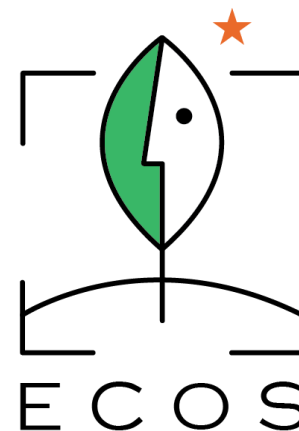
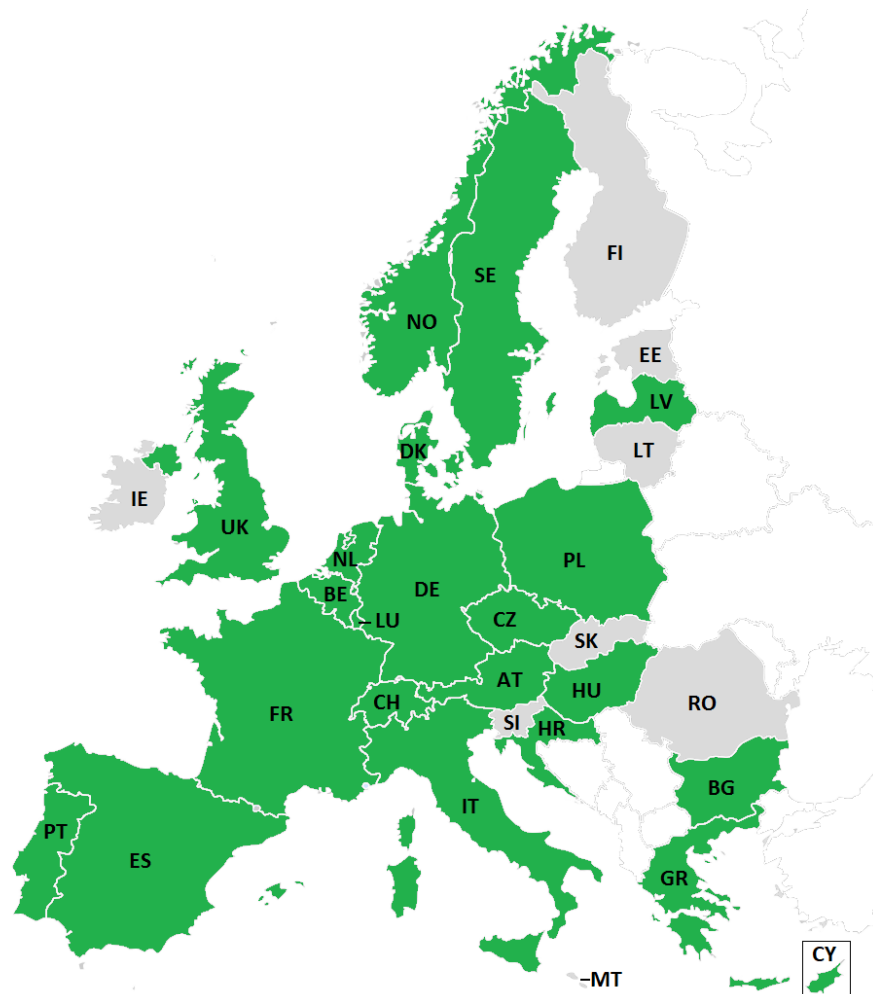




# ECOS - European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standardisation



# TODAY ON THE AGENDA



- LCA: what is it and what is it for?
- ISO standards for LCA: the basics
- ISO standards for LCA: the limitations
- Policy use of LCA: recommendations
- Q&A



# LIFE-CYCLE ASSEMENT WHAT & WHY

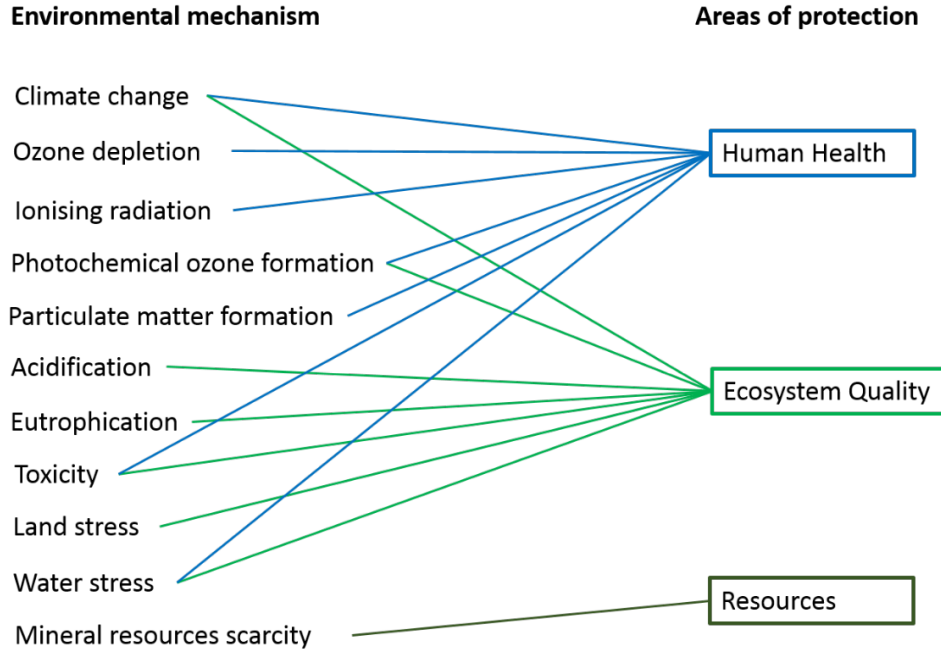


**Mathilde Crêpy**  
Programme Manager, ECOS



## Technique for assessing the environmental impacts of a product in a **holistic** way

↓  
i.e. product system & environmental impacts



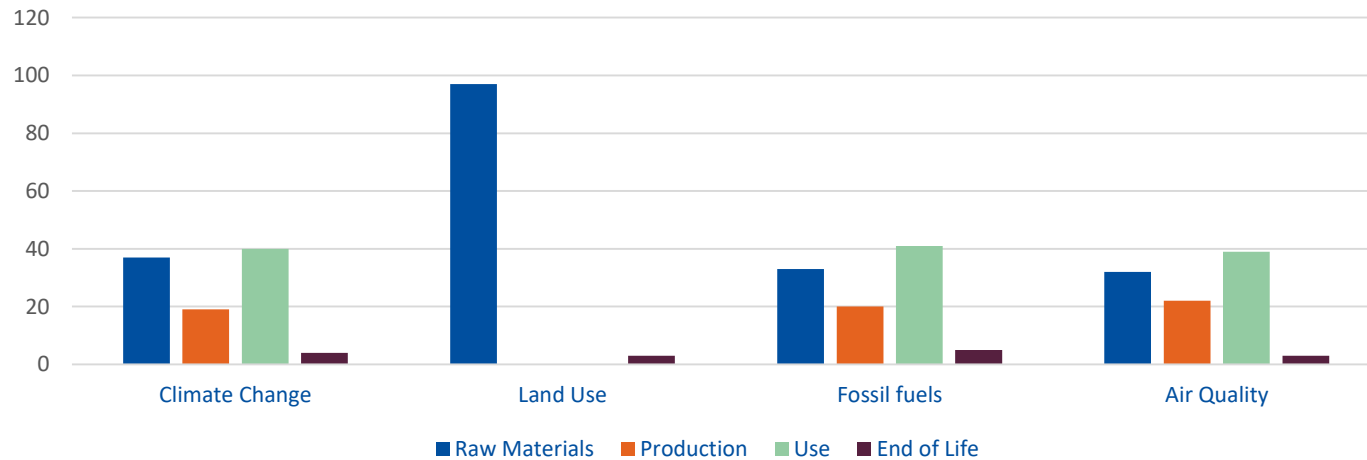


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# A QUICK POLL!









## Life Cycle Assessment of pasta



Raw materials... and use!

# What do we use LCA for?



-  • Assess “modelled” vs. “assumed” impacts
-  • Inform decision makers
-  • Improve performance / reduce impacts
-  • Avoid burden shifting
-  • Compare similar products
-  • Marketing





# What NOT to use LCA for?



- Create non-tariff trade barriers
- Set legal obligations
- Compare different products





# ISO STANDARDS FOR LCA

# T H E B A S I C S



**Kim Christiansen**  
ECOS Expert

# ISO 14040 and 14044: some history



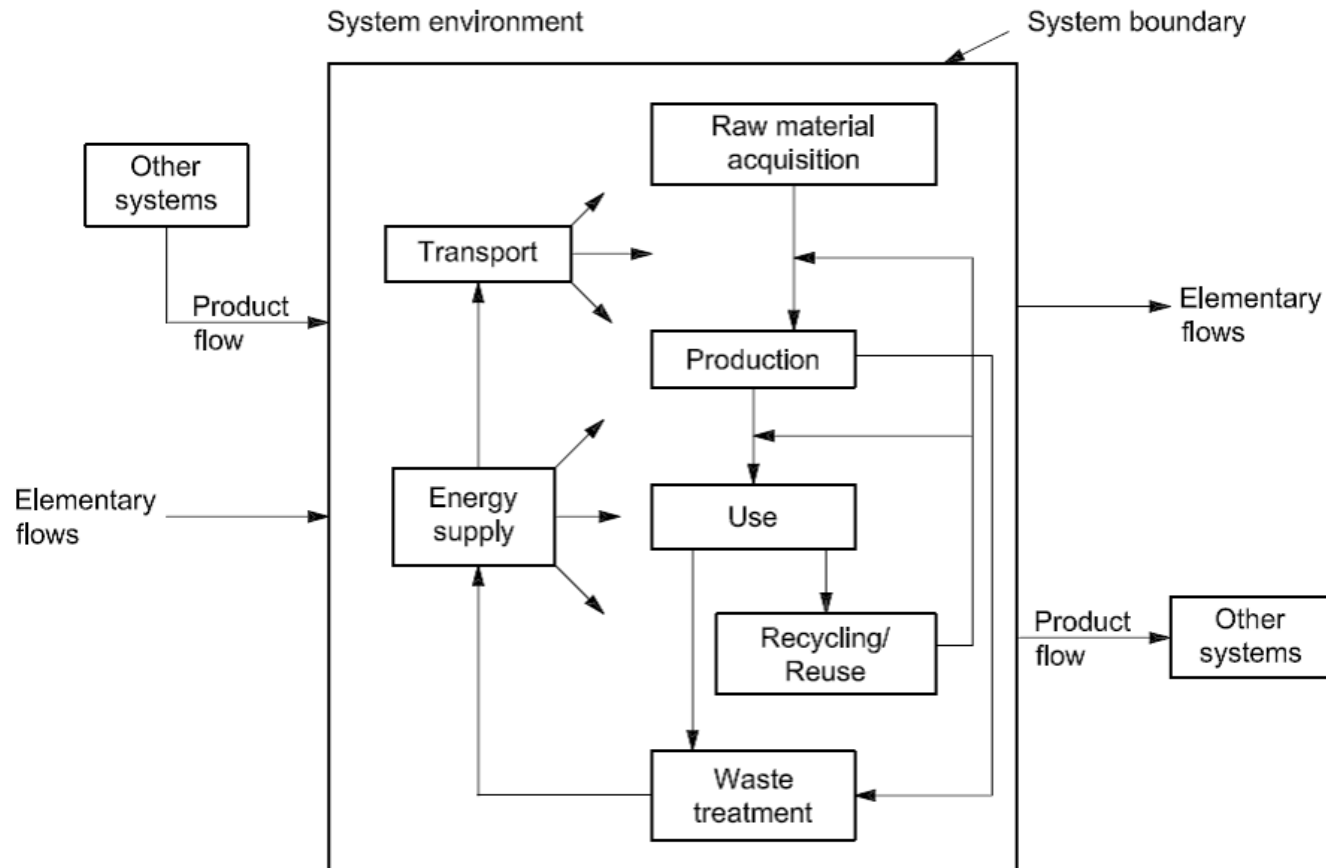
- Developed in the 1990's
- First version in 1997
- “Revised” in 2006, not revised since!
- Other standards based on 14040/44:
  - carbon footprint (2013, revised 2018)
  - water footprint (2014)



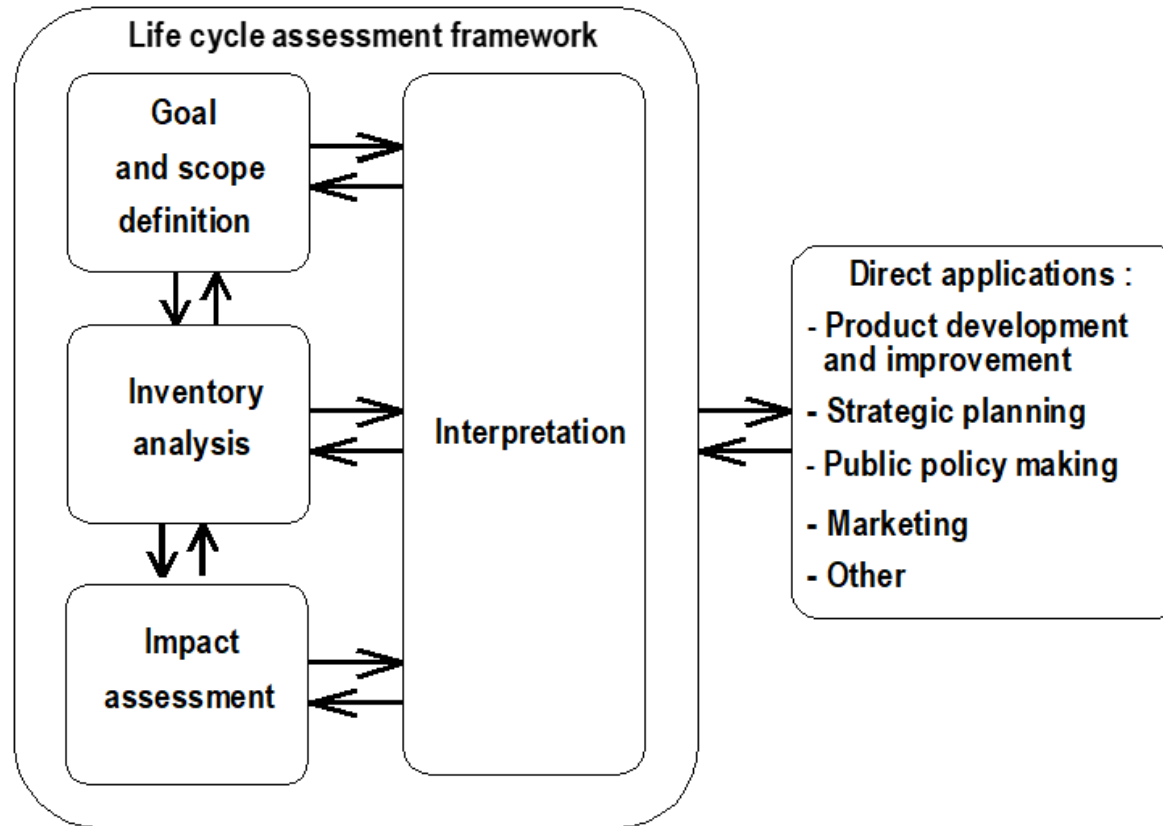
# ISO 14040 and 14044: the basics



LCA: based on the **input** and the **outputs** to the **system** and understanding their relationship with the environment



# ISO 14040 and 14044: the basics





# ISO STANDARDS FOR LCA THE LIMITATIONS



**Kim Christiansen**  
ECOS Expert

# ISO standards and their limitations



- ISO standards are old & updated information on the different existing methodologies and approaches is needed
- Data coverage limitations
- Vague terminology
  - Meaning of *science based*
  - “no weighting for *comparative assertion* to the *public*”
- “Not intended for contractual or regulatory purposes or registration and certification”, and yet...
- No list of essential impact categories





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# TIME FOR A QUIZ!





# POLICY USE OF LCA RECOMMENDATIONS



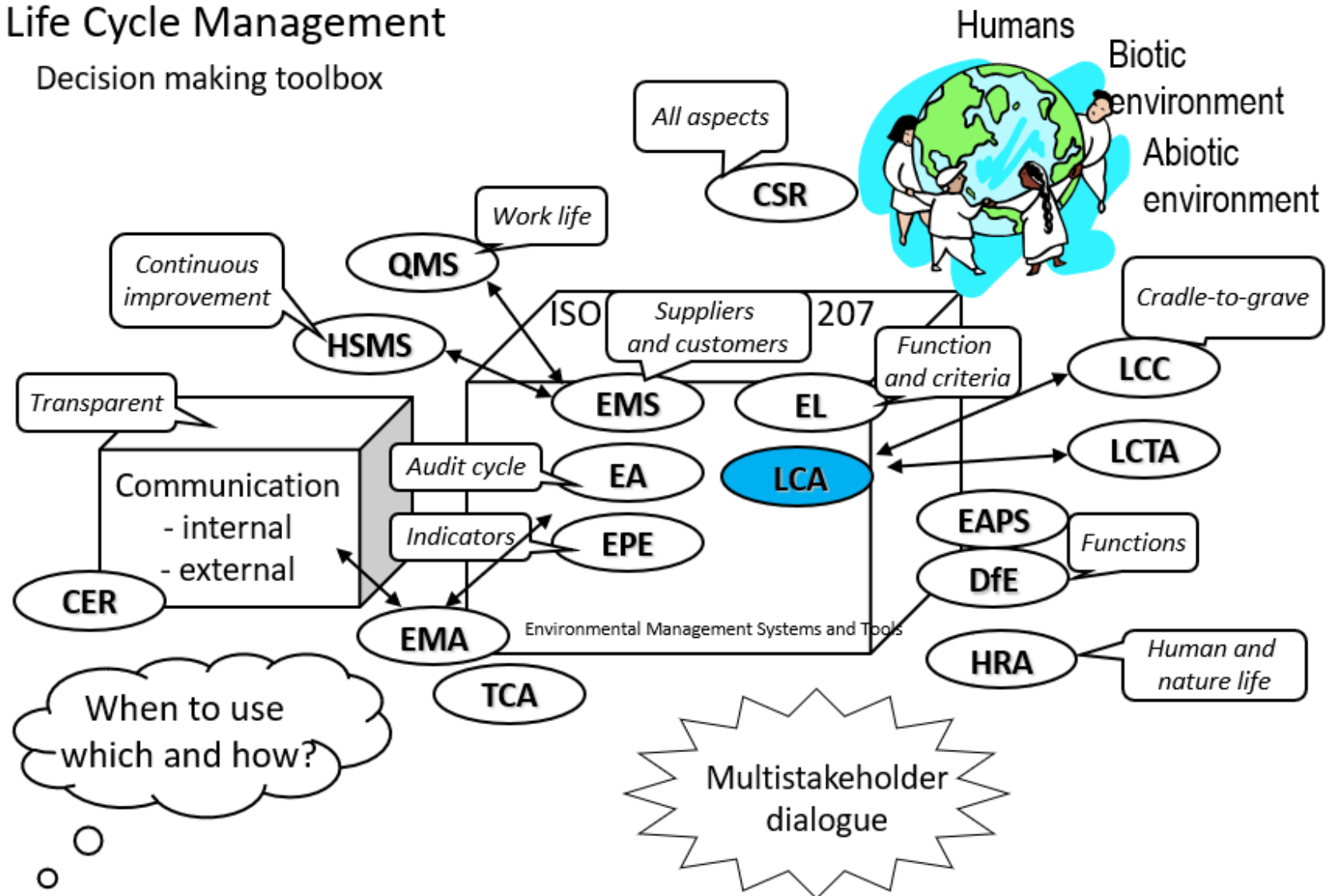
**Mathilde Crêpy**  
Programme Manager, ECOS

# Many tools to choose from...



## Life Cycle Management

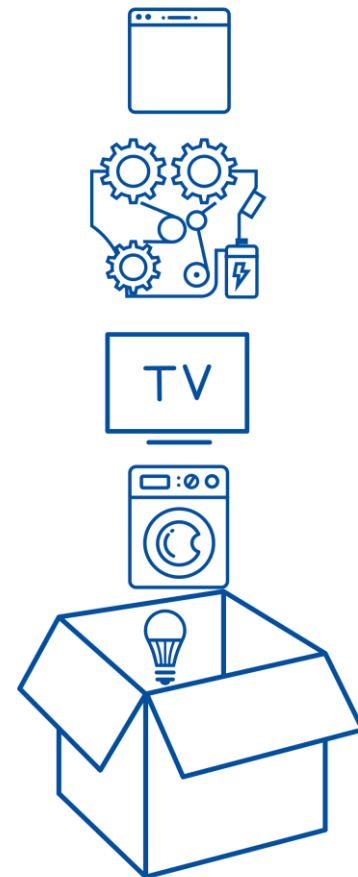
Decision making toolbox



# Use of LCA: examples from EU product policy instruments



- Policies developed based on life cycle approach
  - Ecodesign
  - Construction Products Regulation
  - EU Ecolabel
- Policies whose implementation rests upon LCAs
  - Environmental Product Declaration
  - Product Environmental Footprint





## Main shortcomings

- Aspects and/or impacts partially considered (biodiversity, toxicity) or not at all (nanomaterials)
- Limited involvement from NGOs and civil society
- Communication on certain environmental aspects and impacts only (subjective)



## Recommended applications

- Common methodology (EU Ecolabel, ecodesign/energy labelling, sustainability of construction products, GPP)
- Communication platform for B2B only
- Communicate on better performance only if unequivocally better





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# OVER TO YOU!

## Q & A

Join us for our December conference!



ECOS CONFERENCE

# ACCESS GRANTED?

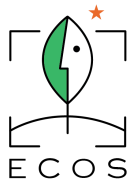
Helping Environmental NGOs Engage in Standardisation at National Level

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Registration is free of charge and open for all!



[ecostandard.org](http://ecostandard.org)

# Thank you!



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