German Network on Life Cycle Inventory Data – Setup of a Data Collection

C Bauer, J Buchgeister and L Schebek
christian.bauer@itc-zts.fzk.de, jens.buchgeister@itc-zts.fzk.de, liselotte.schebek@itc-zts.fzk.de
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Department of Technology-Induced Material Flows

Reliability of LCA results crucially depends on the availability and quality of LCI data. In order to provide high-quality LCI data for background systems in LCA but also for a larger variety of possible application fields harmonization strategies for already existing data sets and data bases are required.

In view of the high significance of life cycle inventory data as a basis of major fields of action within a sustainability strategy, the German Helmholtz Association under the leadership of the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (FZK) has taken up this issue in its research program. In 2002, the FZK conducted a preliminary study on "Quality Assurance and User-oriented Supply of a Life Cycle Inventory Data" funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Within the framework of this study, a long-term conception for improving the scientific fundamentals and practical use of life cycle inventory data was developed together with external experts. The focus is on establishing a permanent German **"Network on Life Cycle Inventory Data"**. This network shall integrate expertise on life cycle assessment in Germany, it shall harmonize methodology and data, and it shall use the comprehensive expert panel as an efficient basis of further scientific development and practical use of LCA. At the same time, this network shall serve as a platform for cooperation on an international level.

Current developments address methodological definitions for the initial LCI data base. This prototype will serve as starting point to collect and integrate available data. As a novel element user needs are differentiated in parallel according to the broad application fields of LCI-data from product declaration to process design. The results will be used to define tailored interfaces for the data base.

The presentation will focus on progress in this initiative.