

Satellite event: Sustainability from a Service Perspective Workshop

22nd November 2019 - 09h00 to 13h00, at Le Plaza Hotel (Brussels)

About this Event

This workshop emphasises the added value of considering resource use from a service perspective where efficiency is evaluated relative to the meeting of physical aspects of wellbeing. In particular, we invite the attendees to consider the role that accumulation, and not just consumption, plays in supporting socioeconomic development. The workshop offers various opportunities for attendees to re-consider the function of materials. They will be invited to re-envision sustainable development and reflect critically on whether we are in fact a consumerist society and if the metrics we use to gauge environmental performance are fit for this purpose. We will discuss how policymakers, industry leaders, academics and students can, upon considering a service perspective, re-design regional, national and international policies to meet the material-based needs of individuals and communities without going beyond environmental limits.

Why is this workshop relevant?

It is estimated that about 140-218 Gt/year of resources will be needed by 2050, for the provision of shelter, mobility, water supplies and various other services upon which humans depend. Collectively, such services are referred to as “energy and material services” and are defined as “those characteristics or functions that energy and materials contribute to personal or societal activity with the purpose of obtaining or facilitating desired end goals or states”.

This level of resource use in terms of both consumption and accumulation along with its link to wellbeing, provides the rationale behind the need to urgently reassess our relationship with Earth and each other. It also calls into question our intrinsic values, economic policies and environmental practices linked to natural resource use, especially when many mineral ores are finite, where renewable materials are difficult to replace or when the rate of extraction/processing is faster than the rate of renewal. One way to reframe resource use away from a production-focused performance is to consider resource provision from an energy and material service perspective.

Objectives

- To raise awareness of the need to consider materials and a service perspective.
- To provide opportunities for policymakers, industry leaders, academics and students to get comfortable with the energy and material service concept.
- To take initial steps into integrating material services into policy discussions.

Raw Materials Week

18 – 22 November 2019



Schedule

08h45 – 09h00	Registration
09h00 – 09h15	Welcome
09h15 – 09h45	Introducing energy and material services
09h45 – 10h30	Group discussion: Energy and material services in the home
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee break
11h00 – 11h50	Group discussion: Energy and material services at city level
11h50 – 12h45	Group discussion: Re-envisioning sustainable development policy in line with a service perspective
12h45 – 13h00	Closing statement

Speakers:

Prof. Daniela Perrotti - Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Urban Planning, University of Louvain, UCLouvain

Kai Whiting - MARETEC / LARSyS, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, TULisbon / MIT Portugal Program

Gabriel Carmona - MARETEC / LARSyS, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, TULisbon / MIT Portugal Program

Registration here: <https://forms.gle/Q7CBdhr1VKAFHmndA>

In case of questions please contact: gabrielcarmona@tecnico.ulisboa.pt or daniela.perrotti@uclouvain.be