

Use of Statistical Sources of Social Data for Sustainability Assessments

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Introduction

The lack of an agreed method to measure the degree of sustainability of products, technologies etc. is a major barrier for sustainable development. A promising approach to overcome that problem is an extended Life Cycle Engineering (LCE) approach, that considers social aspects additional to the established environmental effects (LCA) and costs (LCC). But to conduct an assessment plenty of – so far not acquired – data is needed, similar to the problems at the beginning of (environmental) Life Cycle Assessment itself.

Method

To fill these existing gaps in social data, statistical sources can be employed to gather socially relevant data. A methodology to obtain process-specific data from statistical sources in order to provide a useable data pool will be presented in this work. It will help to overcome the start-up difficulties of assessing social effects as part of an extended LCE.

Implementation

This methodology has been employed in a recently finished projects. Some outcomes and findings of this project will be presented exemplarily in this work to show the significance and expressiveness of thus acquired measures.

Keywords: social, LCA, Sustainability



Verwendung statistischer Daten als Grundlage für die Lebenszyklusuntersuchung sozialer Aspekte

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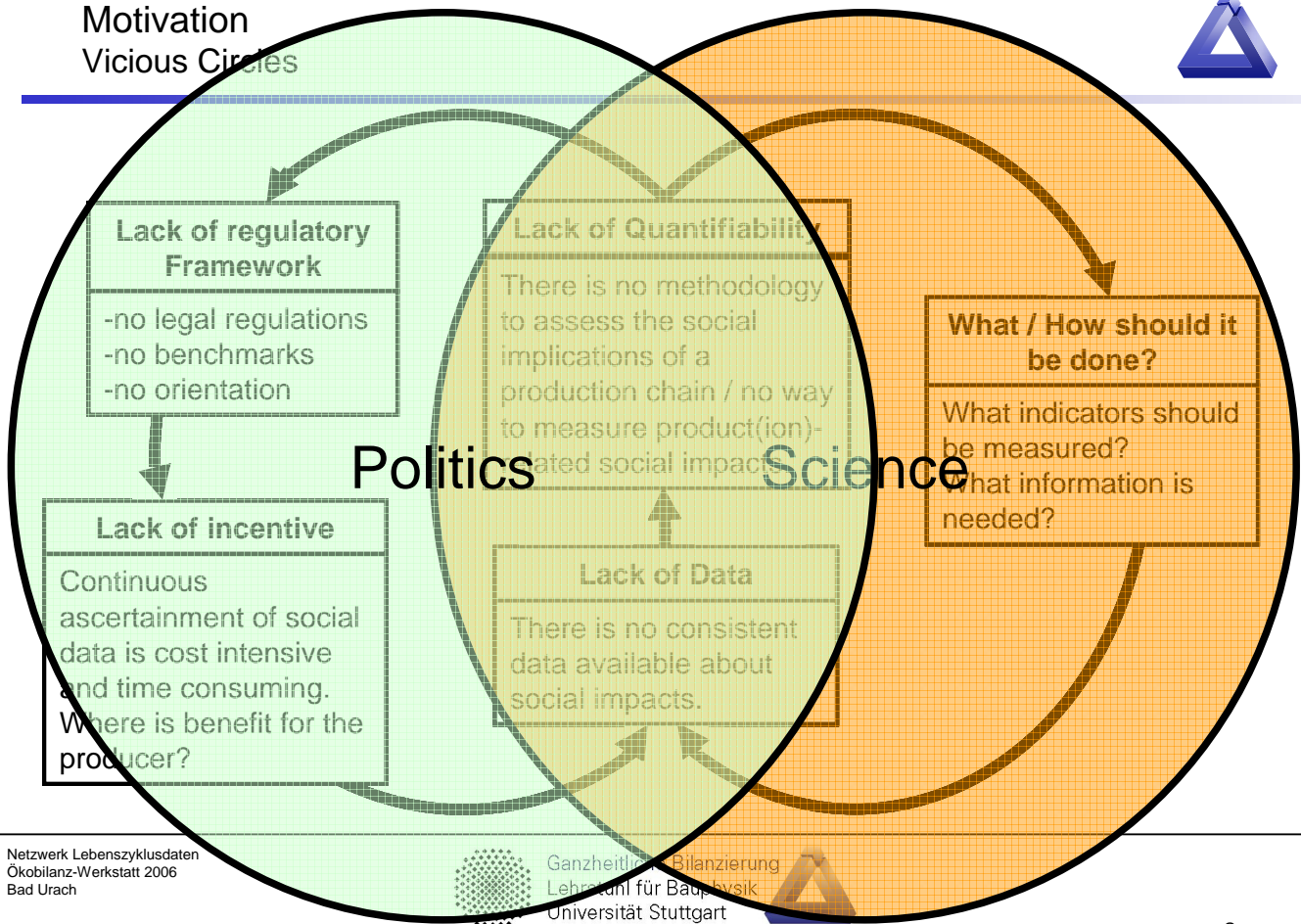
Inhalt



- Motivation und Übersicht “social LCA”
- Grundannahmen der Methode
- Statistische Quellen und der Weg zu prozessspezifischen Sozialdaten
- Beispiel der möglichen Ergebnisse



Motivation Vicious Circles



Netzwerk Lebenszyklusdaten
Ökobilanz-Werkstatt 2006
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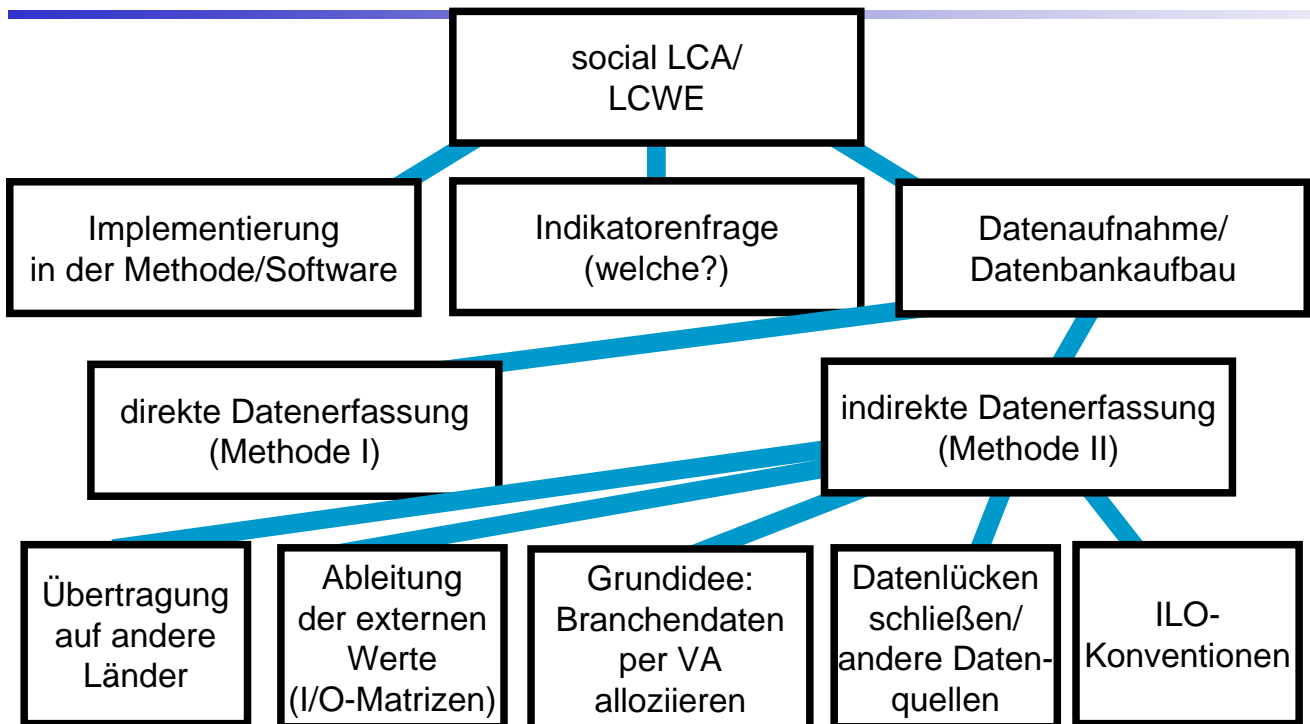


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Diss-Plan Themen- und Problemfelder



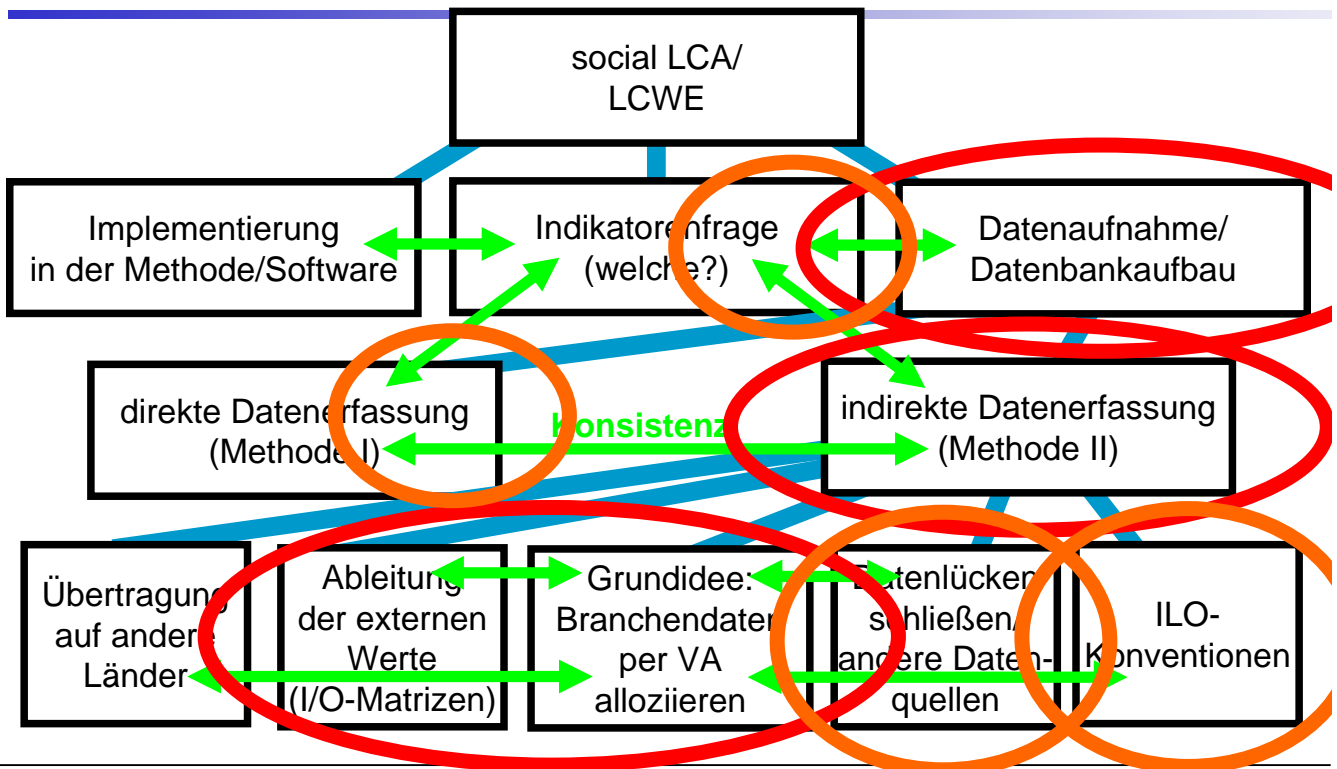
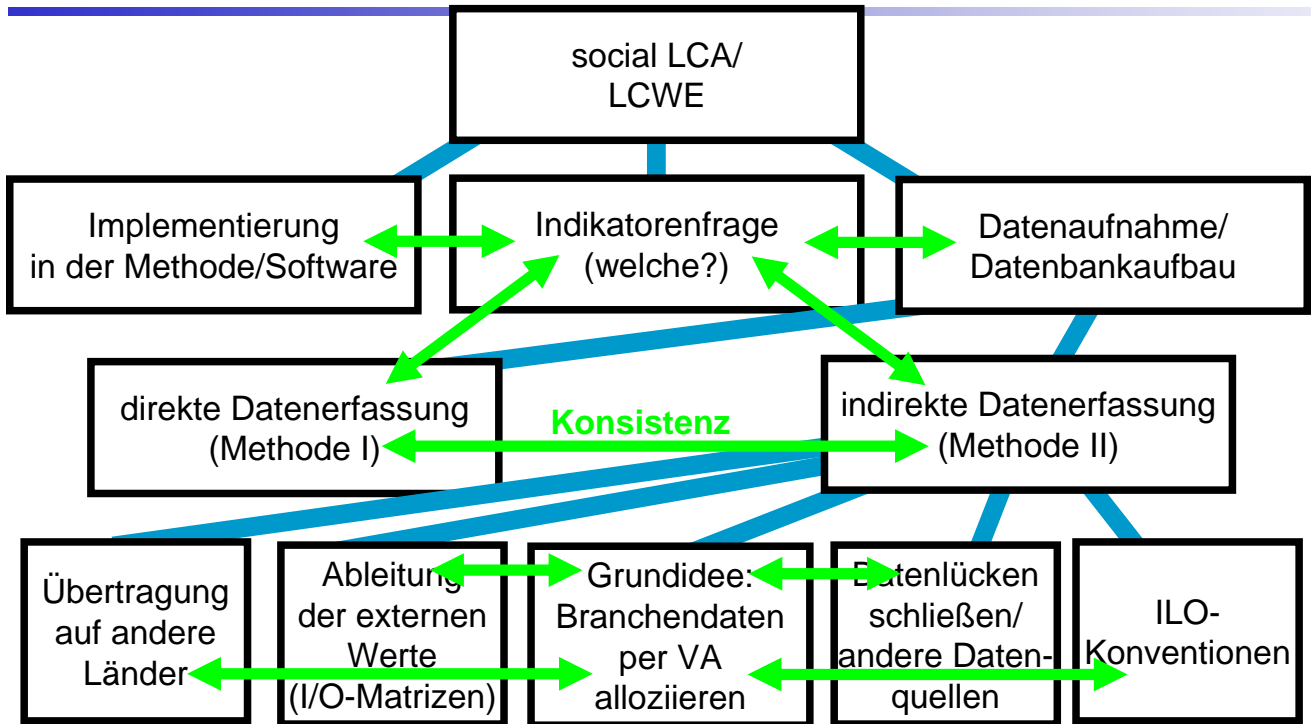
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Assumptions:

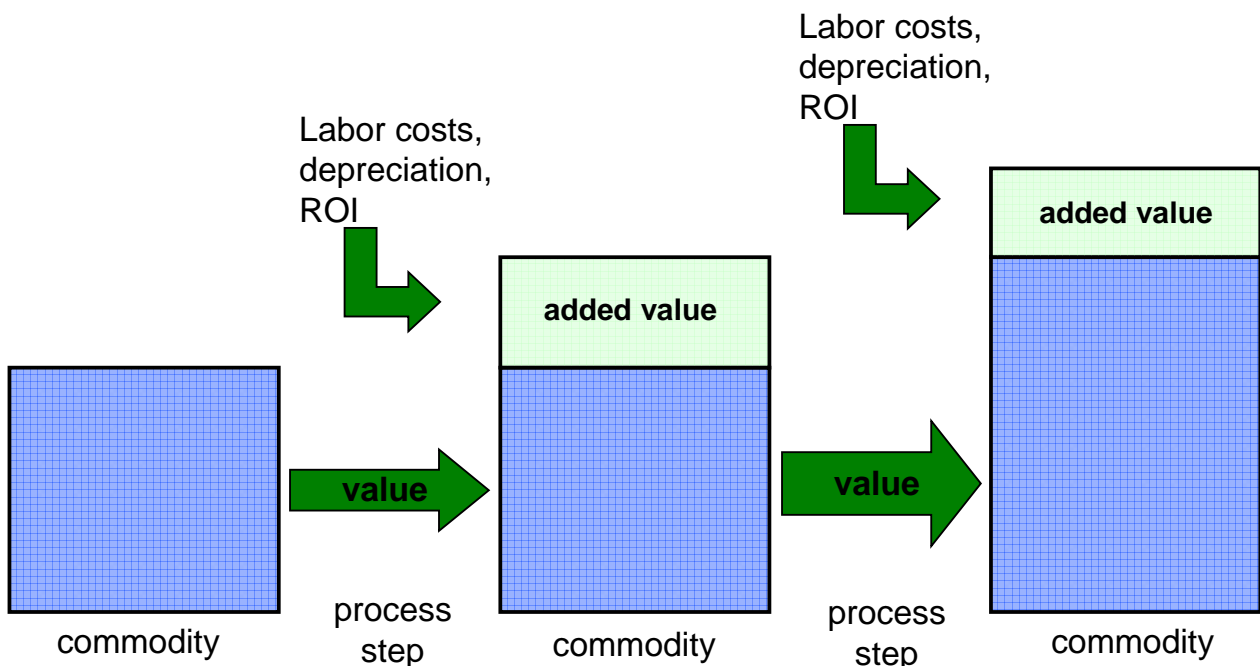
Within an industry sector (with similar types of processes):

- Social impacts of a process-step are proportional to the amount of human work carried out
- The amount of human work carried out is proportional to the added value of the process-step

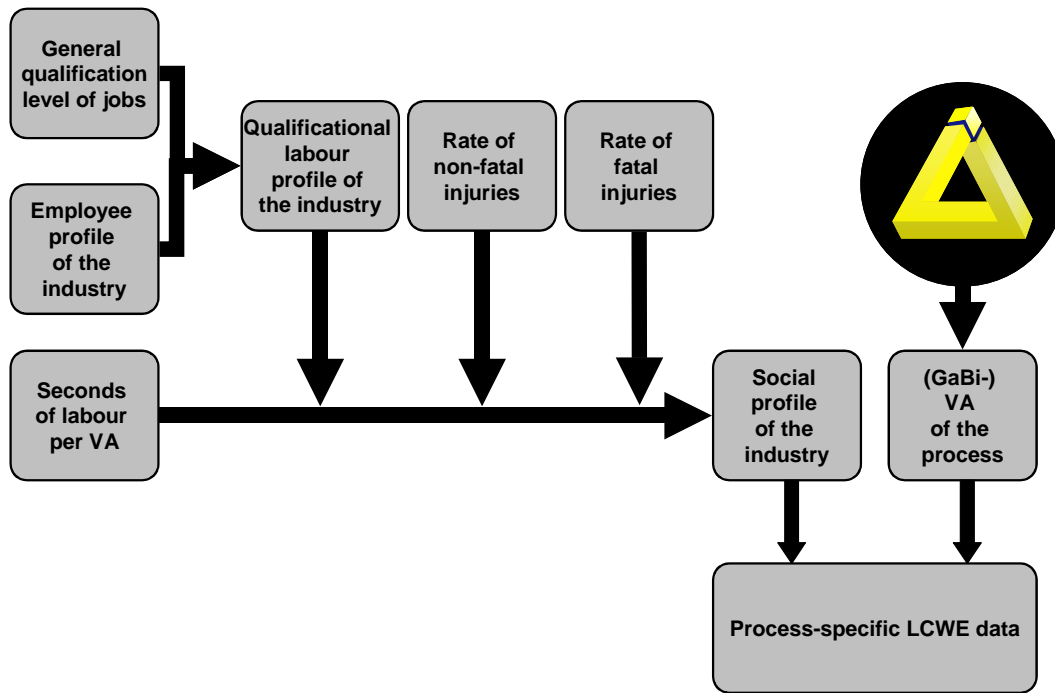
Approach:

--> Statistic data on the level of industry sectors is prorated to single process-steps by relating it to the added value of that process step

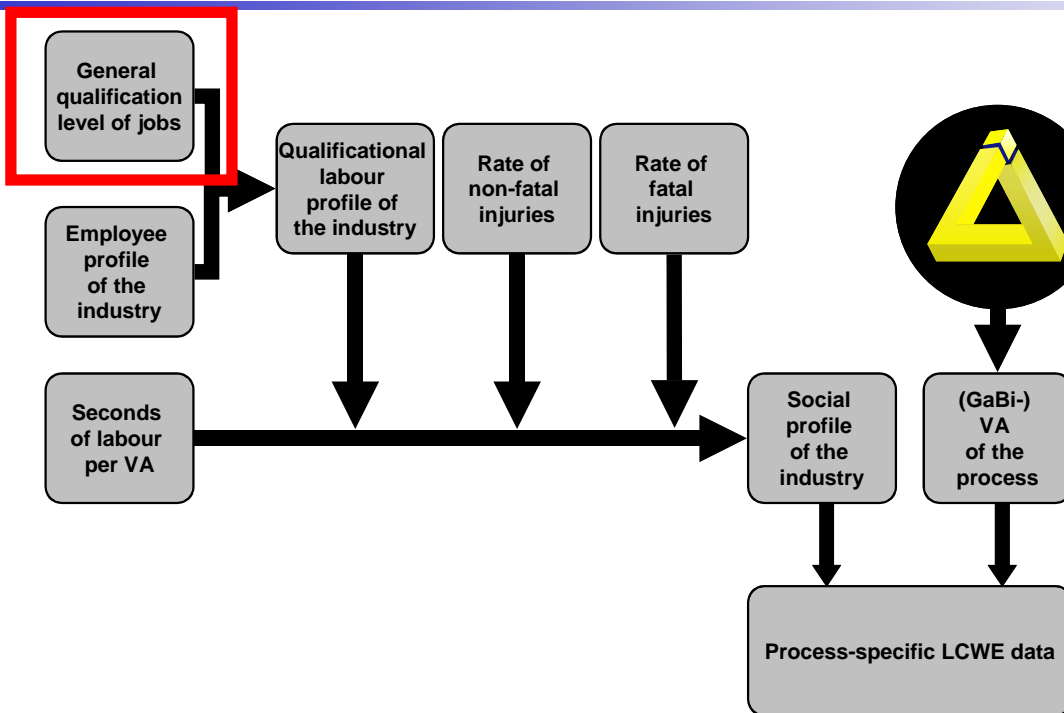
Remark: In contrast to the situation for Environmental Input/Output databases, where the results are very imprecise, sufficiently precise results can be obtained for social criteria: The amount of human work is much closer related to the added-value of a process step than is the environmental impact



Prorate aggregate data to single processes



Prorate aggregate data to single processes General Qualificational Level (GQL)of jobs



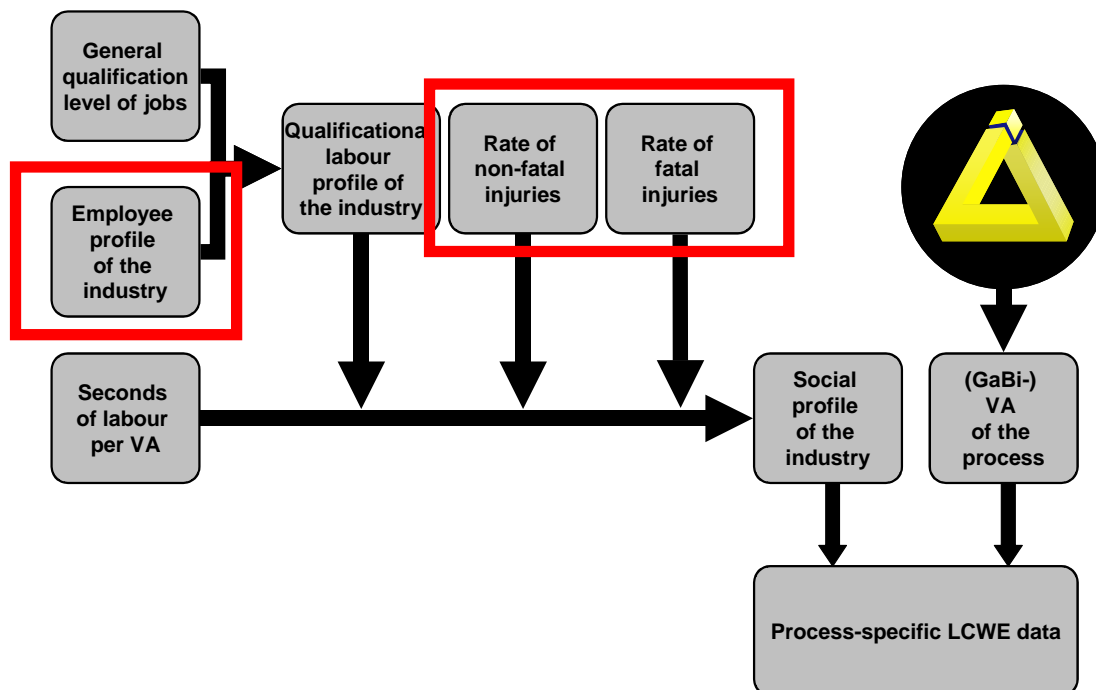


The General Qualificational Level corresponds to the

International Standard Classification of Education [ISCED 1997]

which was designed by UNESCO in the early 1970's.

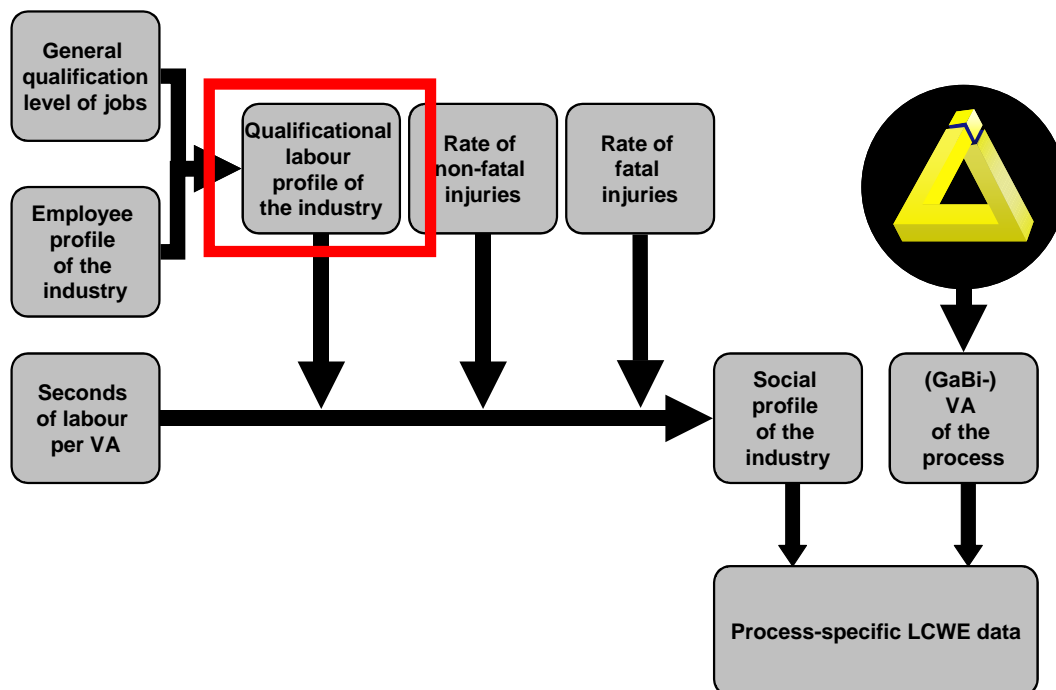
In addition qualification on the job and the generally required capability of the jobs is considered.

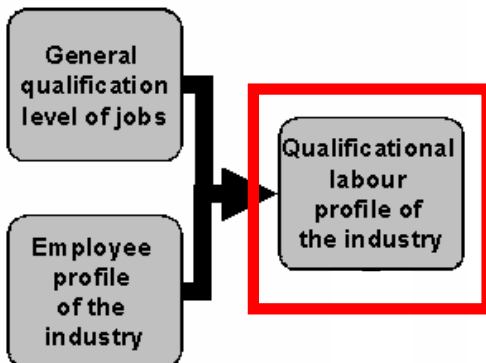




The “**Employee profile of Industries**”,
the “**Rate of non-fatal Injuries**”,
and the “**Rate of fatal injuries**”
are all deduced from different statistics
and national databases of the industry branches.

At this point it is most important to aim for consistency
despite the fact that you have to
employ several different statistical sources.





Combination of the Employee profile with the list of qualificational levels leads to the qualificational labour profile for each Industry.

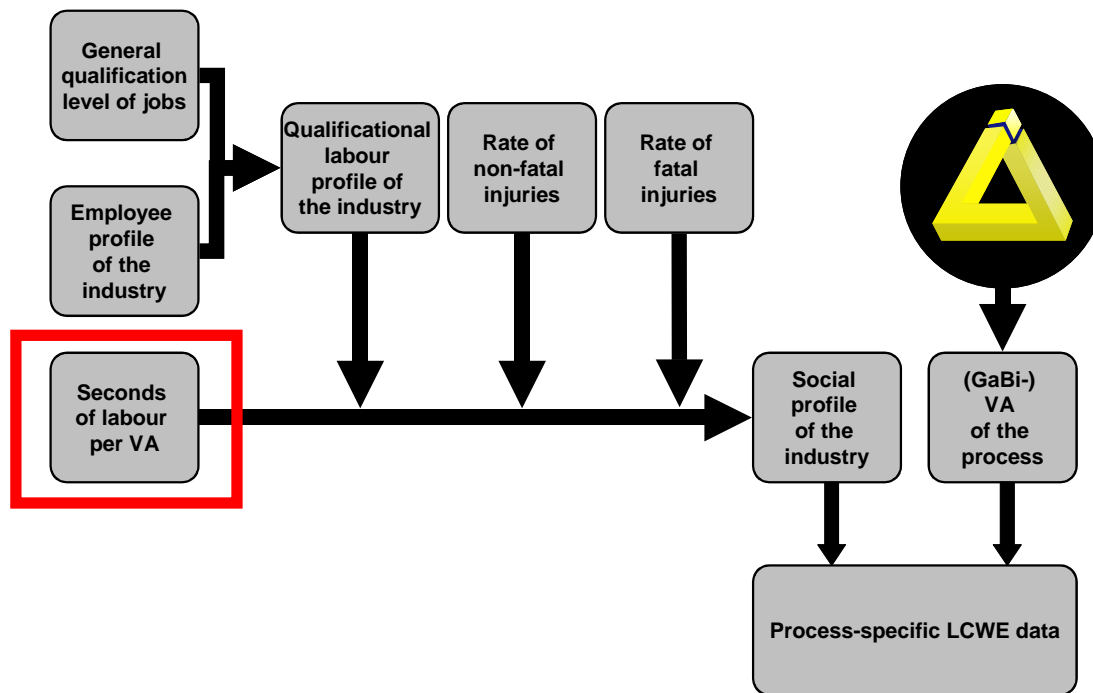
This profile shows how much of the worked time in the industry is accomplished on which qualificational level.

The following assumptions are therefore applied:



- There are no major differences in the annual working time between employees of different qualificational levels
- The share of employees for which no data was available has the same composition of qualificational levels like the rest
- All recorded employees in each industry have been up-scaled to 100 percent (= second assumption).





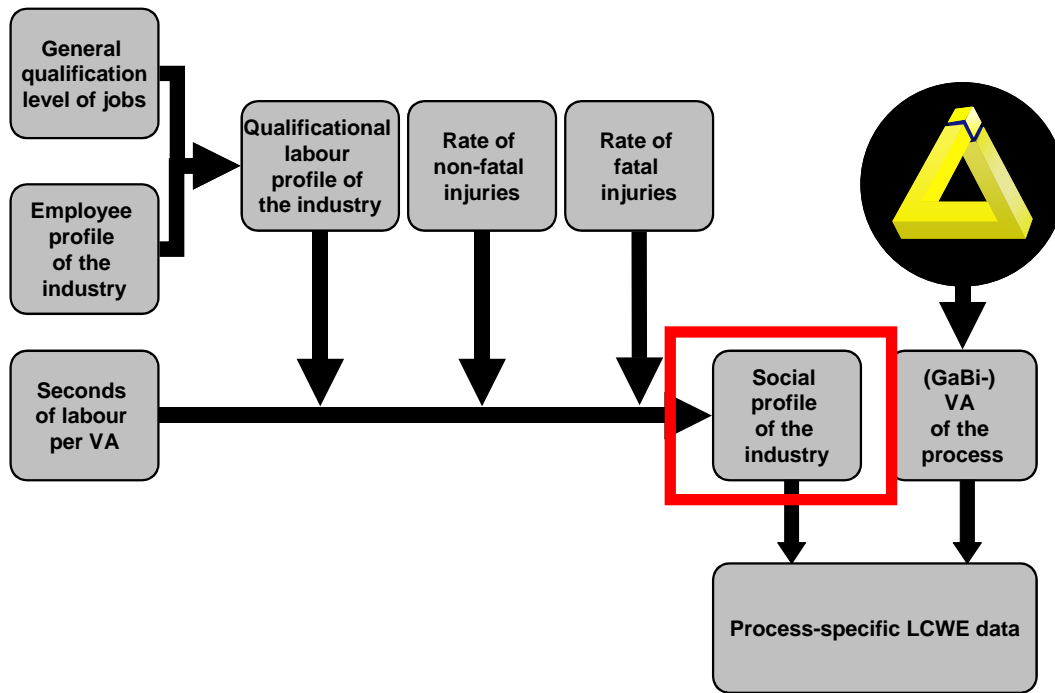
The seconds of labour per added value are also derived from different statistics and national databases of the industry branches.

They have been calculated from the values for

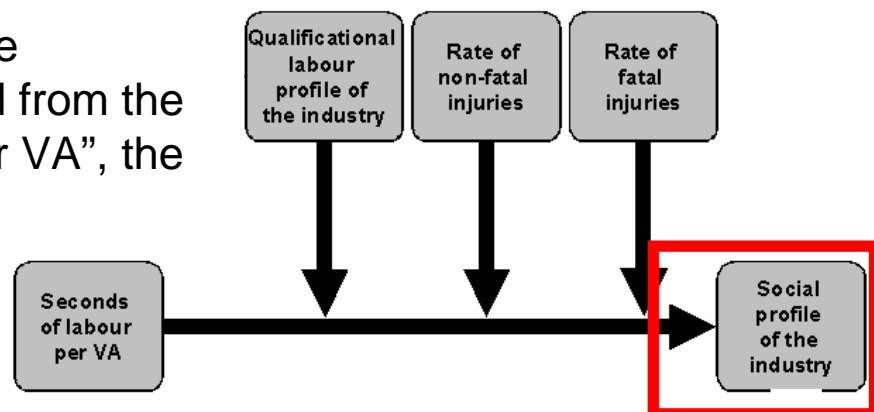
- Number of employees
- Average number of production workers
- Production worker hours
- Cost of contract work and
- Value added.

To get the total worked hours the “production worker hours” have been multiplied with the ratio of “number of employees” to the “average number of production workers”.





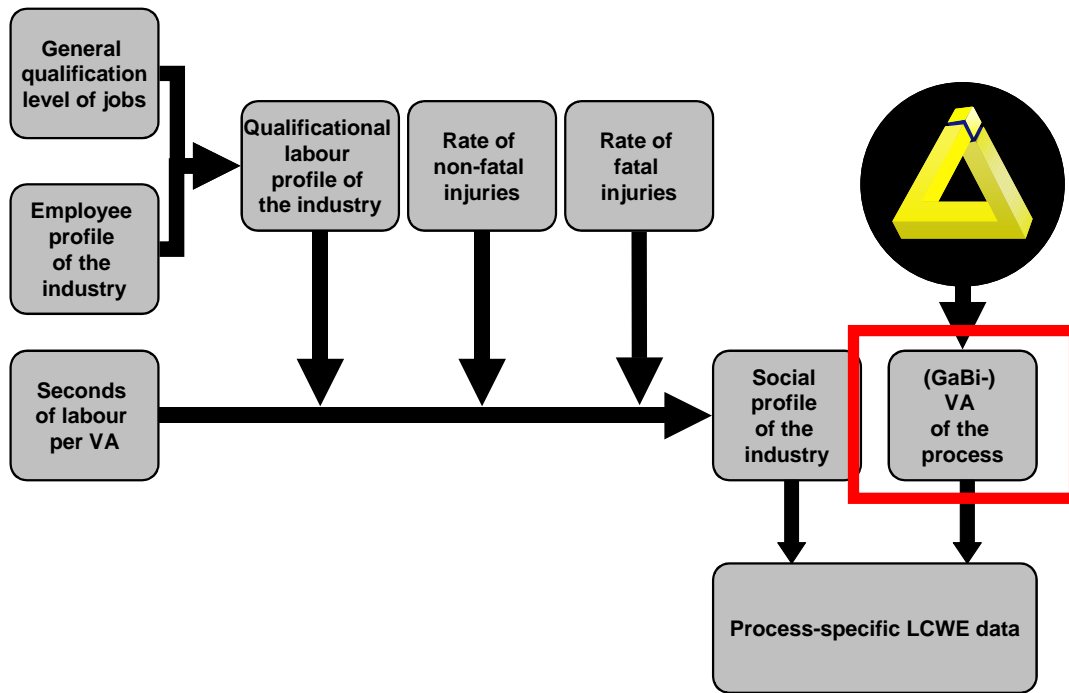
The social profile of the industries is calculated from the “Seconds of labour per VA”, the “Qualificational labour profile of industries”, the “Rate of non-fatal Injuries”, and the “Rate of fatal injuries”.



So finally we arrive at an profile for each industry which shows the values of working seconds for each general qualificational level, in total, the non-fatal and the fatal injuries based on one Euro added value in the corresponding industry.



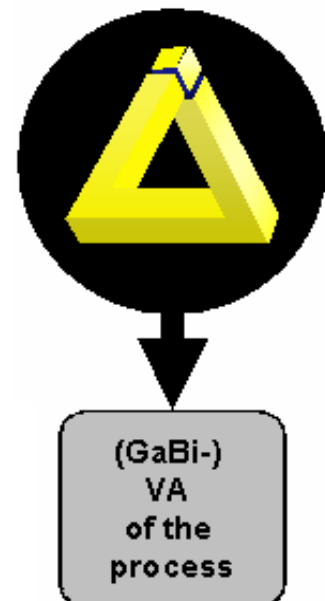
Prorate aggregate data to single processes Added value of the processes



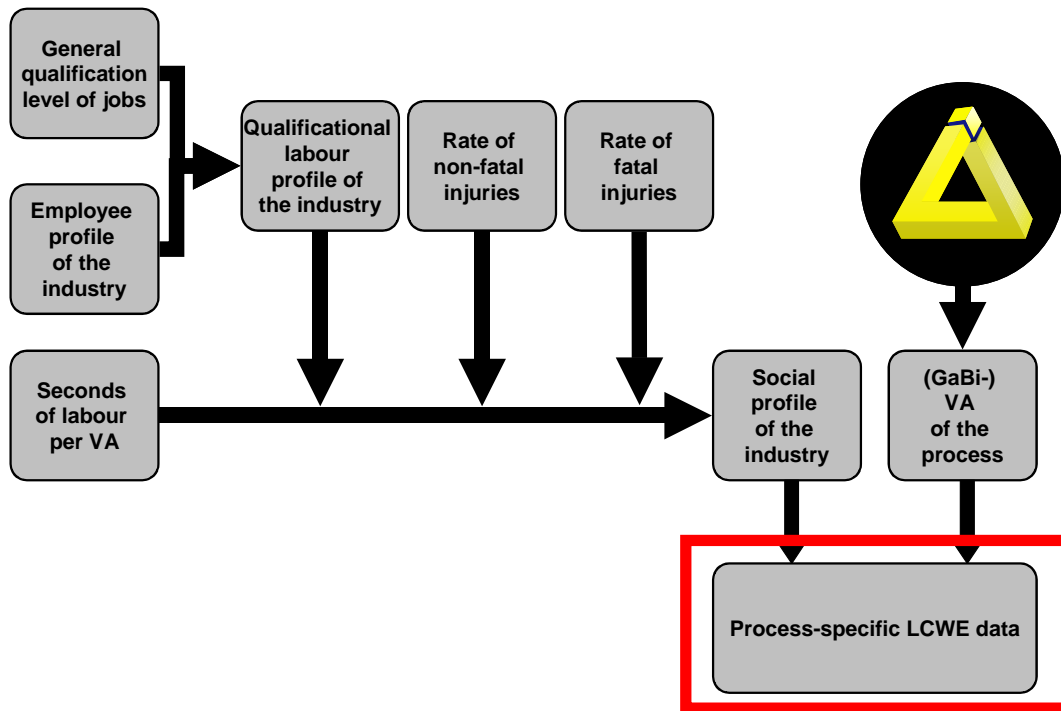
Prorate aggregate data to single processes Added value of the processes



The added value of the single process is determined by subtracting the cost of the input flows from the cost of the output flows. Here cost means the value of the flows which is determined by multiplying the price with the quantity of the flow. The information about the cost and the quantity is taken from an conventional LCA-Model.



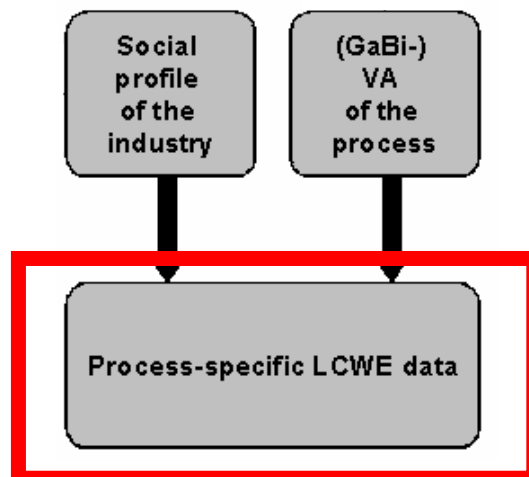
Prorate aggregate data to single processes Generation of the process-specific LCWE data

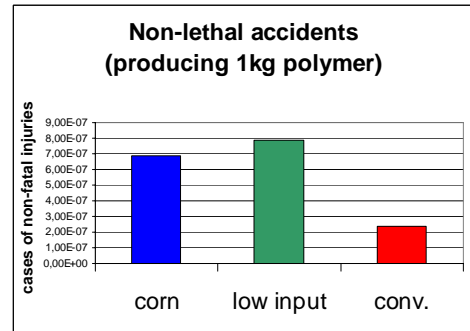
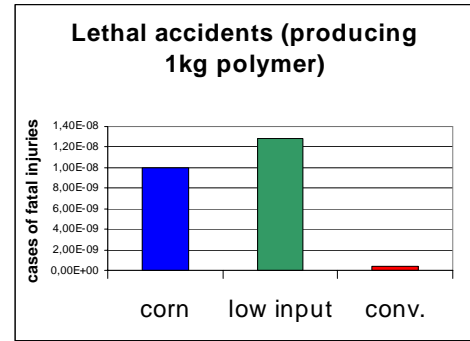
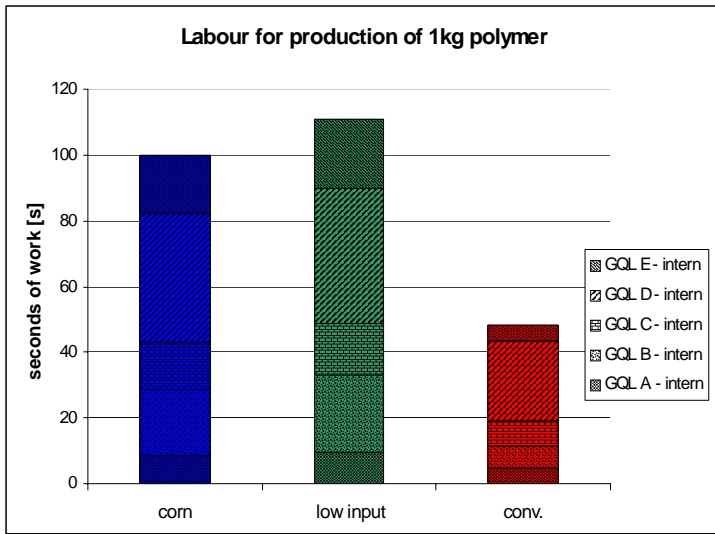


Prorate aggregate data to single processes Generation of the process-specific LCWE data



The generation of the process-specific LCWE data is then accomplished by multiplying the social profile of the industry with the added value of the process.





ENDE

