LCA TO START AND PERFORM GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR FUNERAL PRODUCTS

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AMNU S.p.A. is an Italian multi-utility company, whose owner are local municipalities, which operates basically in the territory of the Province of Trento in urban waste collection and transport.
In the last years AMNU has started the “new” activity of funeral service that has a wide public concern and is a source of deep connection with the the territory.

Funeral services and cemetery’s management are becoming more and more important and therefore AMNU has moved forward in the environmental path and this is the objective of this work: to integrate procurement tenders for the funeral products industry by inserting environmental purchasing criteria.
To achieve this, we have performed a LCA study, because it has scientific and legal bases, focusing on sector of inhumation.
The aim is to determine criteria that may characterize funerary products from an environmental point of view.

Moreover, AMNU is related to the GPP (= Green Public Procurement) which is an instrument of european environmental policy and aims to encourage the market for green products and services, starting from the public administration.
It is important to note that the GPP is no longer a voluntary instrument in Italy and that the cost of procurement of goods and services in Italy, operated by different Public Authorities (PA), each year is around 50 billion euro (ISTAT data): PA can push towards a more green economy and a more sustainable market.

To propose an invitation to tender for the first time characterized by green criteria for funeral products, an environmental assessment has been performed for the use of three types of products:
1) coffin,
2) padding,
3) absorbent pad which is often added between the coffin and the padding to absorb the body fluids of the deceased.

THE RESULTS

1) The LCA study helped to identify nine criteria (5 applied to the first product and 4 to the other two) that have allowed to identify and choose products that provide the best environmental impact.

2) Furthermore, the assessment based on the Carbon Footprint has provided interesting directions: in the case of the first product, the difference between the best possible product and the worst is about 40 times of CO2eq, while it is much smaller, with a maximum difference of impact of about 4 times, if referred to the other two products. So, in an LCA perspective, it is more important to focus on coffin rather than padding or absorbent pad.

3) The tender has been compiled with the new requirements and it has been published and now it is available to suppliers (totale value: more than 200.000 euro) who have to contend with these new criteria for the next delivery; consider that the part of the technical bid “means” 60% of the contract notice and environmental section is the more important.