



# Creating harmonized emission factors for verified GHG emission reductions in transport

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# Sustainability at Work: The MCS – ISCC Collaboration



- MCS initiated and continuously develops ISCC in a multi-stakeholder approach
- ISCC has been recognized by the European Commission for 15 years
- MCS supported the expansion of ISCC to many new markets, technologies and regions
- Close collaboration with sustainability-focused sister companies (GRAS, ClimatePal and 4C)

<https://sustainability-at-work.org/>

# Creating Harmonized Emission Factors for Verified GHG Emission Reductions in Transport



## Rationale behind CLEVER:

- Emission factors used in every GHG calculation
- Lots of interested / impacted stakeholders
- Many emission factor sources available
- Lack of clarity and consistency
- International perspective



# Project Objectives

- Define a comprehensive **Emission Factor methodology**
  - Impartial, comprehensive, clear, specified, transferable
- Achieve a **consensus-based** solution via technical dialogue
  - State-of-the-art, gaps and developments
- Provide accompanying **guidance** and ‘validated’ **set of default emission factors**
  - Provide starting point for EC database
- **Market access** to the project outputs



Funded by  
the European Union

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# The Stakeholder Approach



## Consortium of 11 partners



## Expert Forum

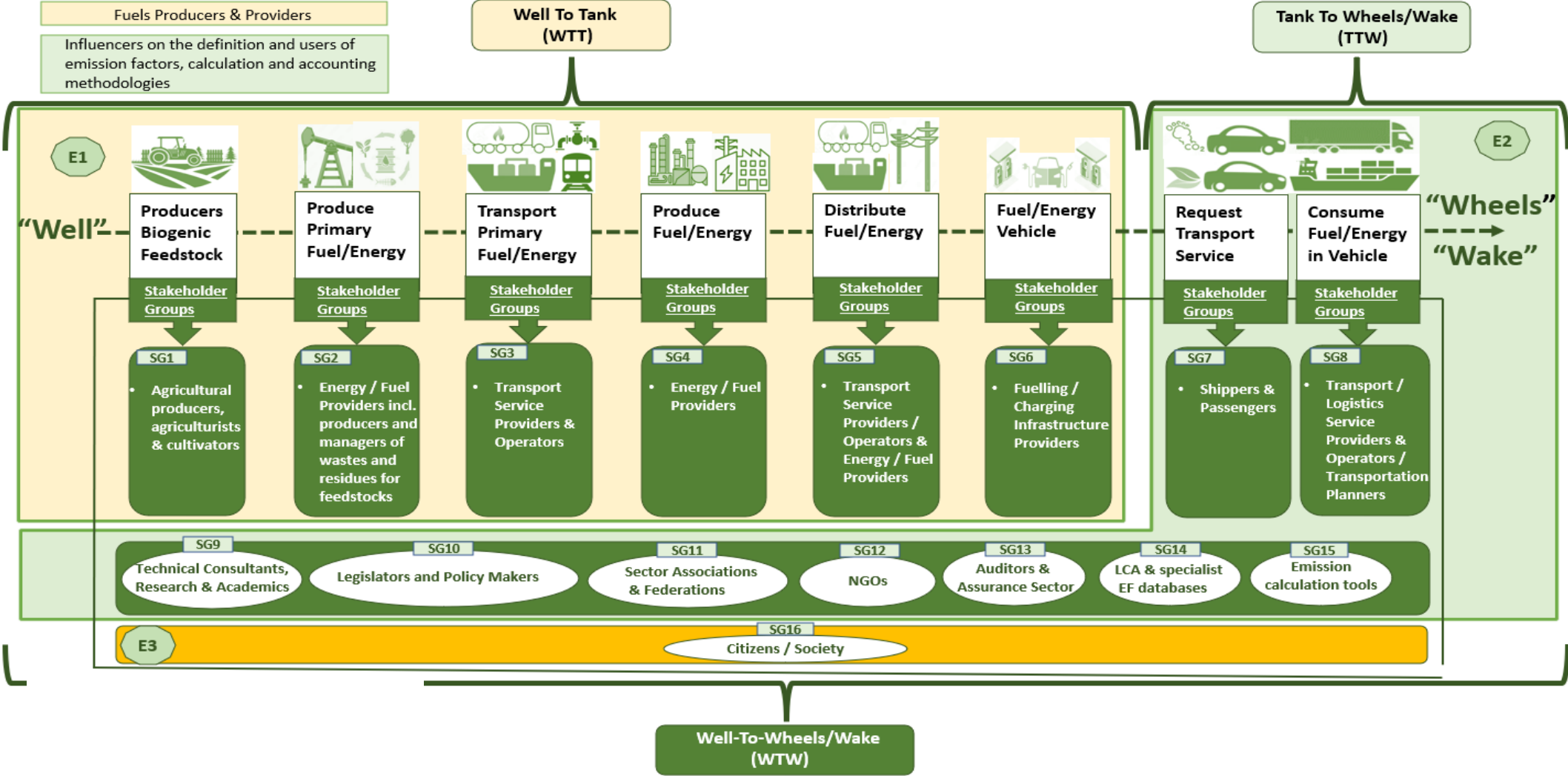
Over 60 engaging parties from industry, associations, research, regulation & standards



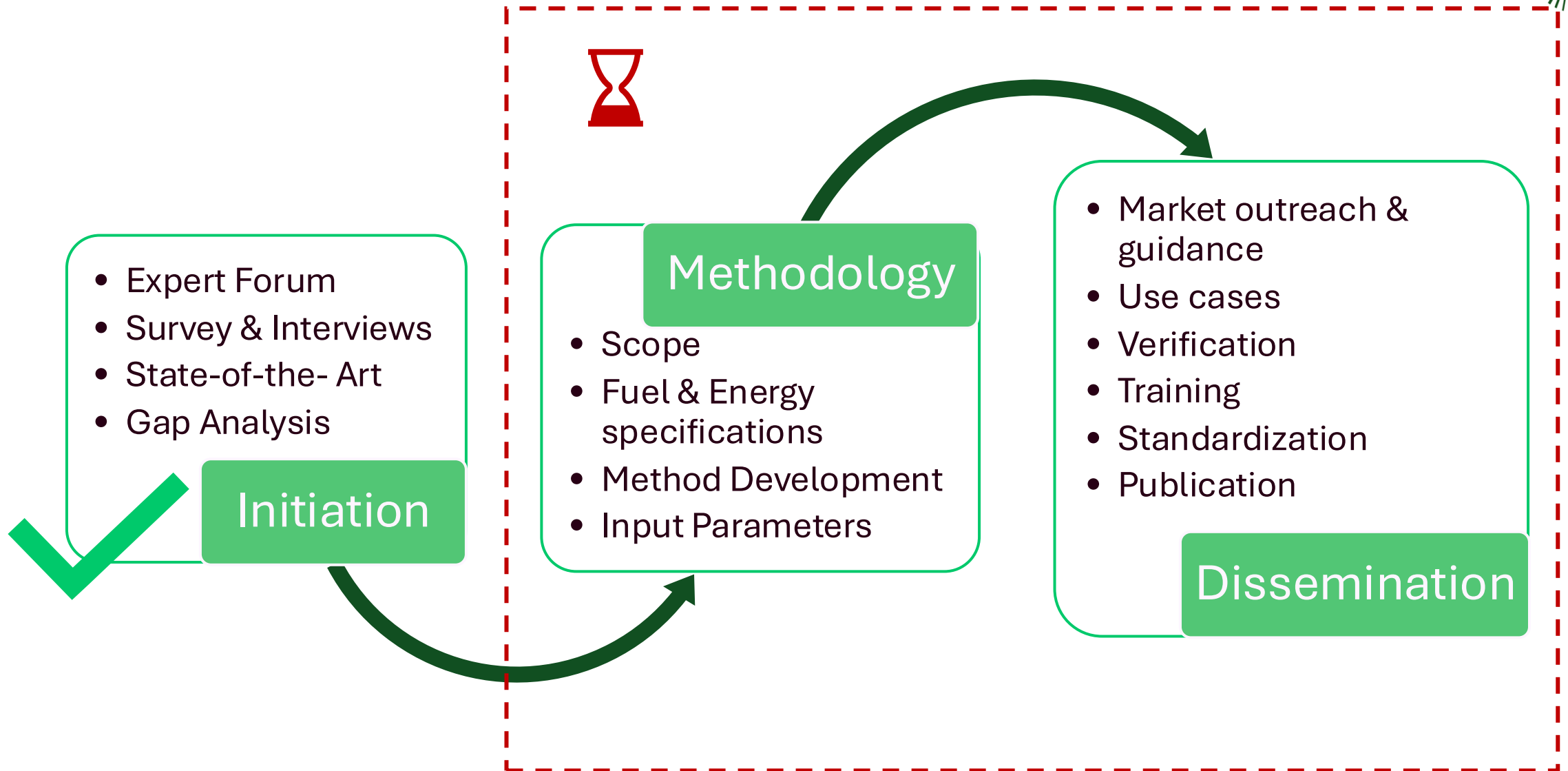
## Regulators & Standards



# Project Ecosystem



# Current Status of Project Progress



# The CLEVER Repository



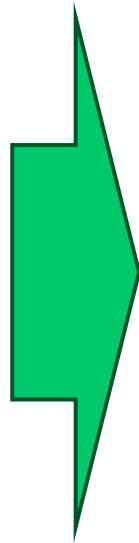
➤ Accessible and updatable by everyone



State of the art on  
emission reporting



Relevant initiatives  
and existing &  
emerging regulator  
frameworks



alice | Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe

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### Course Menu

- Project Summary, Objectives ...
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### Relevant Initiatives

- CertificationReporting requireme...

### Existing and emerging regulat...

- Legislation on emission accountin...

### Scientific State of the Art

- RELEVANT INITIATIVES

### Certification

- Reporting requirements

### Standardisation

- Related (European) projects

### Relevant Initiatives - Other

- EXISTING AND EMERGING ...

### Legislation on emission accou...

### What's new in the CLEVER Repository

Latest updates in CLEVER Project

- CLEVER\_Overview of Regulatory Frameworks and Initiatives\_November\_2025
- CLEVER\_Overview of Methodologies, Tools and Emission Factors

Click on the topic you are interested in to see the contents related to it.

- Relevant initiatives
- Existing and emerging regulatory frameworks
- Scientific State of the Art
- CLEVER Deliverables Presentations Documents & Leaflets

### Social Media and more information

- CLEVER - LinkedIn
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**CLEVER**

# **Scope of Work, Status Quo & Next Steps**



# Goal of CLEVER GHG Emission Factors and Methodology



**CLEVER** is:

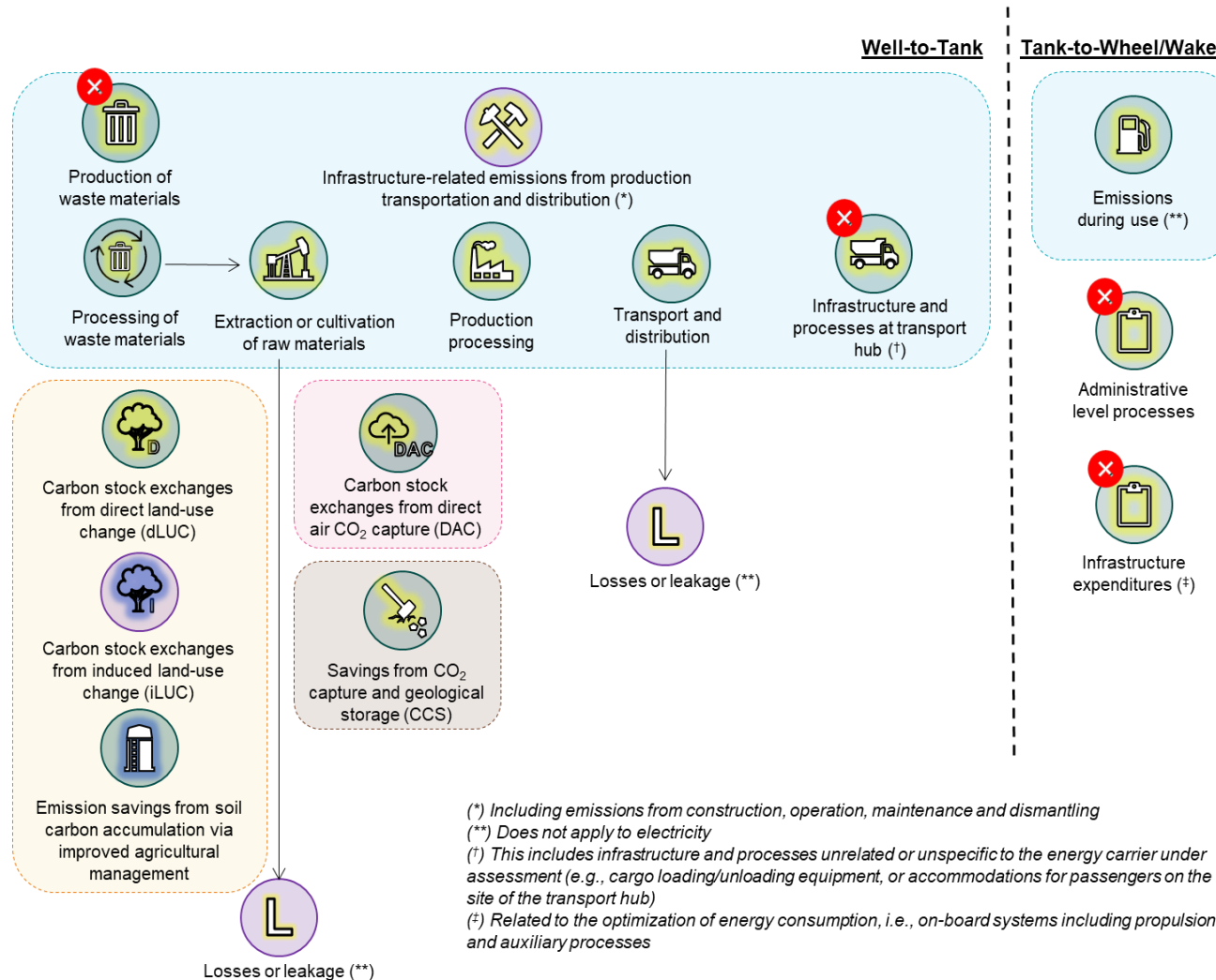
- A **universal methodology** on how to derive **GHG emission** factors for different energy carriers and pathways
- A **set of ready-to use GHG emission factors** for the most commonly used energy carriers today and in the near-future following this methodology

→ Background:

- Different methodologies and databases for GHG emission factors exist leading to the need for a harmonised approach

- For **whom** are we doing this, who will use this and how?
  - **CLEVER GHG emission factors** will be included into the **CountEmissions EU** database and be usable for everyone doing GHG calculations of transports
  - Calculation of own/ additional GHG emission factors will be possible, following the methodology
  - Adaptation of existing GHG emission factors will also be possible due to a modular approach

# System boundary



- System boundary: Inclusion of all (relevant) life cycle stages (including energy provision infrastructure) → 3% cut-off criteria based on overall climate impact can be applied
- Waste is available burden-free for fuel production, but any upgrading is included

# Scope of CLEVER GHG Emission Factors



- Geographical scope: average fuels used in **Europe** and country-specific values for electricity
- Temporal scope: current and emerging energy carriers (base year: 2025)
- Technological scope:
  - broad range of energy carriers and their pathways for usage in different vehicle types used in transportation covering **all modes of transport** (air, water, ocean, rail, road)
- Energy carrier pathways:
  - Fossil fuels and electricity
  - Biogenic fuels
  - Renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs)
  - Recycled carbon fuels
  - Renewable (non biogenic) electricity
  - Other low carbon fuels
- Impact assessment:
  - “Climate change” as GWP100 (from latest IPCC report) but with the addition of hydrogen
- Inclusion of direct land use change (following IPCC guidelines with 20-years perspective)
- Approach to biogenic carbon: -1/+1 (only permanent storage of biogenic carbon can lead to negative WTW emissions)
- Coverage of additional climate impacts from high altitude emissions of airplanes, black carbon emissions and indirect land use change (iLUC)

# Result presentation of CLEVER GHG Emission Factors



CLEVER results are given as:

$$EF_{Total} = EF_{Core} + EF_{iLUC} + EF_{ACI}$$

- with  $EF_{Total}$  constituting the total CLEVER GHG emission factor
  - with  $EF_{Core}$  including all GHG emissions and processes inside of the system boundary (apart from iLUC and additional climate impacts)
  - with  $EF_{iLUC}$  representing contributions from iLUC (indirect land use change)
  - with  $EF_{ACI}$  representing additional climate impacts (divided into impacts of hydrogen, high altitude emissions and black carbon)
- Division into:
    - Well-to-tank and tank-to-wheel
    - Main GHGs (CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>)
    - Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Additional information on:
    - Energy carrier pathway and usage
    - Lower heating values
    - Densities (for liquid fuels)
    - Data quality rating
    - GWP100 of the main GHGs

# Next Steps, Information & Engagement Options



- (Draft) final methodology
- LCI data collection
- Finalization of emission factor samples
- Use Cases
- Regular Expert Forum meetings (next: Amsterdam in April)

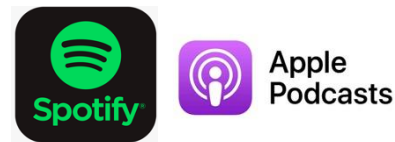
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**THANK YOU**





# Annex



# Pathways and Feedstocks I



Fuel/ energy carrier	Feedstock (Tier 3) and production process (Tier 2)	Type of fuel
Renewable electricity	Member State renewables mix	Renewable
Fossil electricity	Member state grid mix	Fossil
Hydrogen (fossil)	Natural gas ( <i>Steam methane reforming with and without CCS</i> )	
LNG	Crude oil ( <i>refining</i> )	
Gasoline		
Diesel		
Kerosene		
HSFO		
VLSFO		
Methanol	Natural gas ( <i>steam reforming and methanol synthesis</i> )	
Biomethane (as LBM)	manure & whole crop maize ( <i>anaerobic digestion and upgrading of biogas</i> )	
Bioethanol	Corn ( <i>first generation fermentation plant</i> )	
	Wheat straw ( <i>second generation fermentation plant</i> )	
ATJ-Kerosene	Bioethanol produced from corn & wheat straw ( <i>alcohol to jet</i> )	
FAME	Rapeseed oil & used cooking oil ( <i>esterification</i> )	
HVO	Rapeseed oil & used cooking oil ( <i>hydrotreatment</i> )	
HEFA		
Co-processed HEFA		

# Pathways and Feedstocks II



Fuel/ energy carrier	Feedstock (Tier 3) and production process (Tier 2)	Type of fuel
Bio-methanol	Lignocellulosic residue (forestry residue) (gasification & methanol synthesis)	Biofuel
FT-gasoline	<i>Lignocellulosic residue (forestry residue) (gasification &amp; Fischer Tropsch (FT) sythesis &amp; fuel upgrading)</i>	
FT-diesel		
FT-kerosene		
FT-gasoline	Refuse derived fuel (RDF) produced from municipal solid waste ( <i>gasification and &amp; Fischer Tropsch (FT) sythesis &amp; fuel upgrading</i> ))	Partially biofuel and partially recycled carbon fuel (RCF)
FT-diesel		
FT-kerosene		
RCF	Upgraded pyrolysis oil; End of life tyres (ELT) ( <i>pyrolysis and fuel upgrading</i> )	
Hydrogen	Renewable electricity ( <i>electrolysis</i> )	Renewable fuel of non-biological origin (RFNBO) / e-fuel
Ammonia	Hydrogen from renewable electricity via electrolysis (Haber <i>Bosch process</i> )	
E-gasoline	H <sub>2</sub> from renewable electricity via electrolysis plus CO <sub>2</sub> from fossil point source e.g., power plants ( <i>Fischer Tropsch (FT) sythesis &amp; fuel upgrading</i> )	
E-diesel		
E-kerosene		