The Organisation Environmental Footprint (OEF) – a method recommendation by the European Commission

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Agenda

- Introduction – Joint Research Centre (JRC) and it's role
- Organisation Environmental Footprint (OEF)
- OEF Sector Rules (OEFSR) development – 3 year pilot
- Summary

Who are we and what do we do?

The JRC is the European Commission's in-house science service. It provides the science for policy decisions, with a view to ensuring that the EU achieves its Europe 2020 goals for a productive economy as well as a safe, secure and sustainable future.

The JRC plays a key role in the European Research Area and reinforces its multidisciplinarity by networking extensively with leading scientific organisations in the Member States, Associated Countries and worldwide.

The JRC inside the European Commission

President
José Manuel Barroso

27 Commission Members

Commissioner
Mairé Geoghegan-Quinn
Research, Innovation & Science

Director-General
Dominique Ristori
Joint Research Centre

DG Research & Innovation (RTD)

European Commission

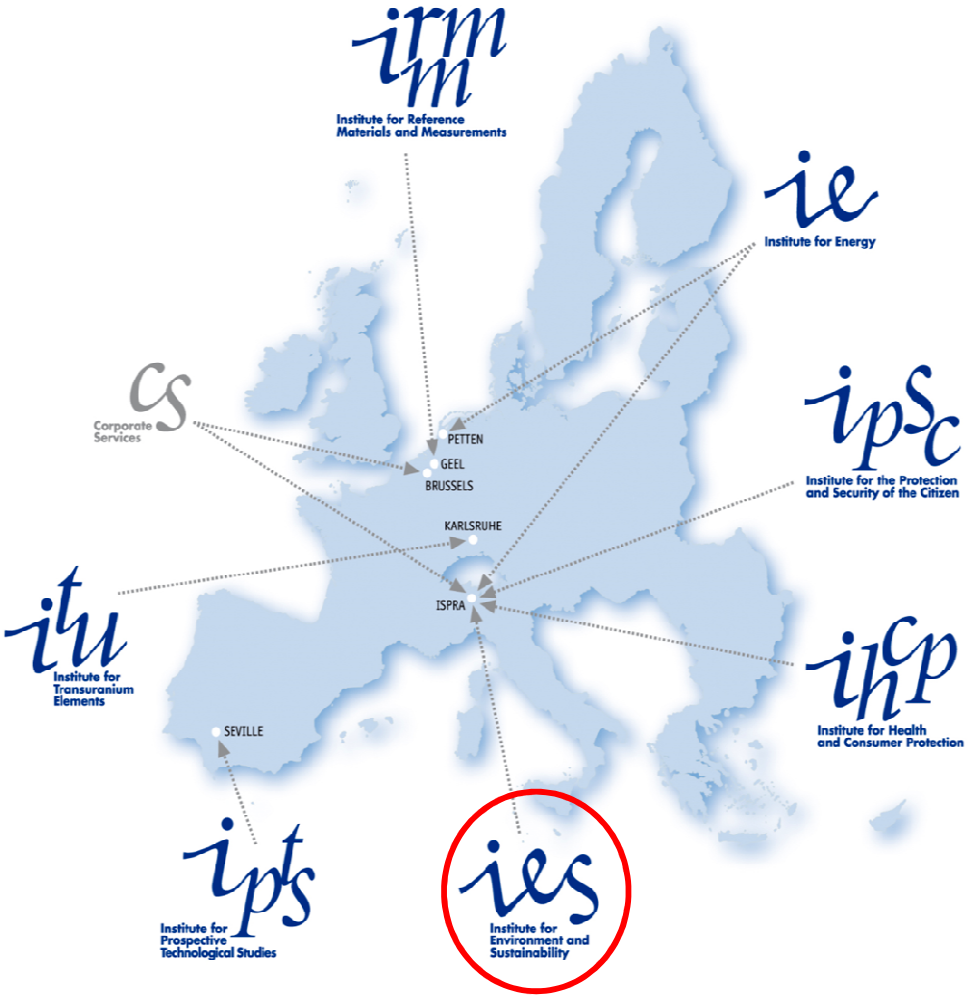
The JRC inside the European Commission

European Commission,

Joint Research Centre (JRC),

Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES)

"The mission of the IES is to provide scientific-technical support to the European Union's policies for the protection and sustainable development of the European and global environment"



Policy background

- ✓ **Development of the Environmental Footprint guides for products and organisations has been conducted in close co-operation with DG ENV**

- ✓ **The Resource Efficiency Roadmap, 2011:**

Request to establish a common methodological approach to enable Member States and the private sector to assess, display and benchmark the environmental performance of products, services and companies based on a comprehensive assessment of environmental impacts over the life-cycle ('environmental footprint')

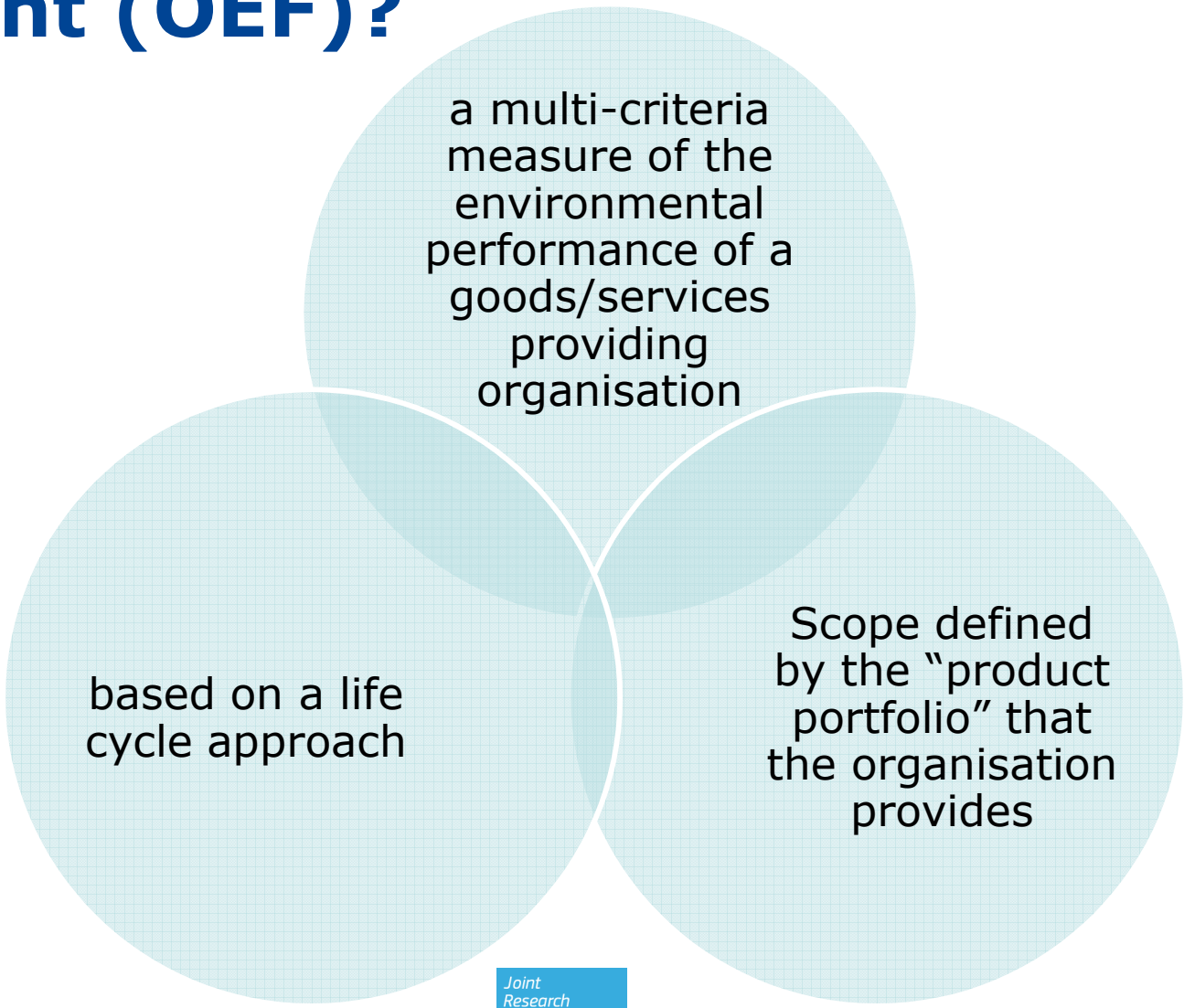
- ✓ **Building the Single Market for Green Products, 2013:**

Commission Communication (2013)196 final and related Recommendation (2013_179_EU) on Product Environmental Footprint and Organisation Environmental Footprint have the objective to "improve the availability of clear, reliable and comparable information on the environmental performance of products and organisations to all relevant stakeholders, including to players along the entire supply chain."

Introduction - OEF

European Commission

What is the Organisation Environmental Footprint (OEF)?

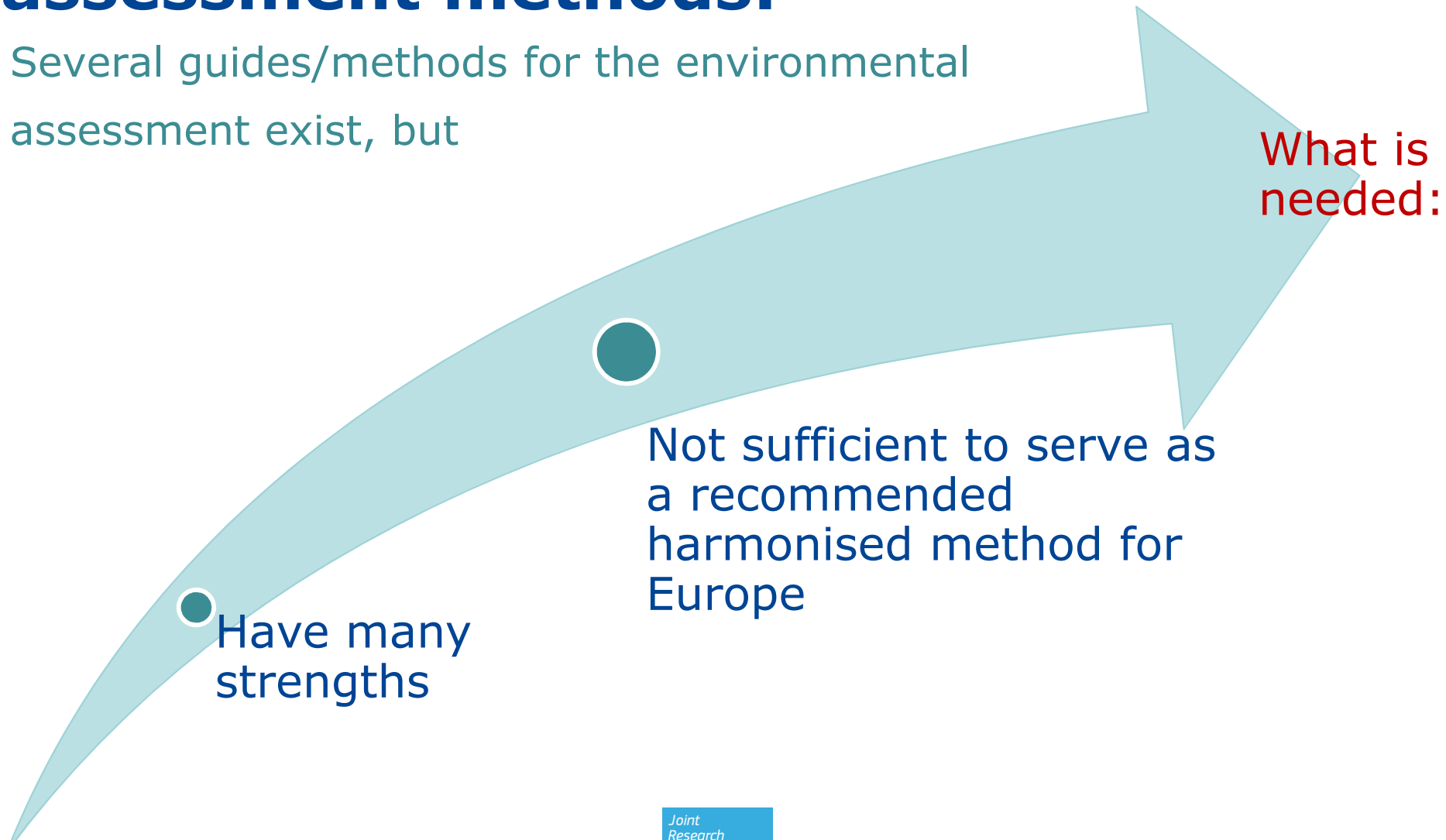


Objectives

- Provide comprehensive evaluation along the life cycle (upstream and – if relevant- downstream)
- Provide comprehensive coverage of potential environmental impacts (no 'single issue' method)
- Ensure better comparability
- Ensure better quality (coherence and quality assurance)
- Build on existing methods as far as possible
- Be applicable without having to consult a series of other documents

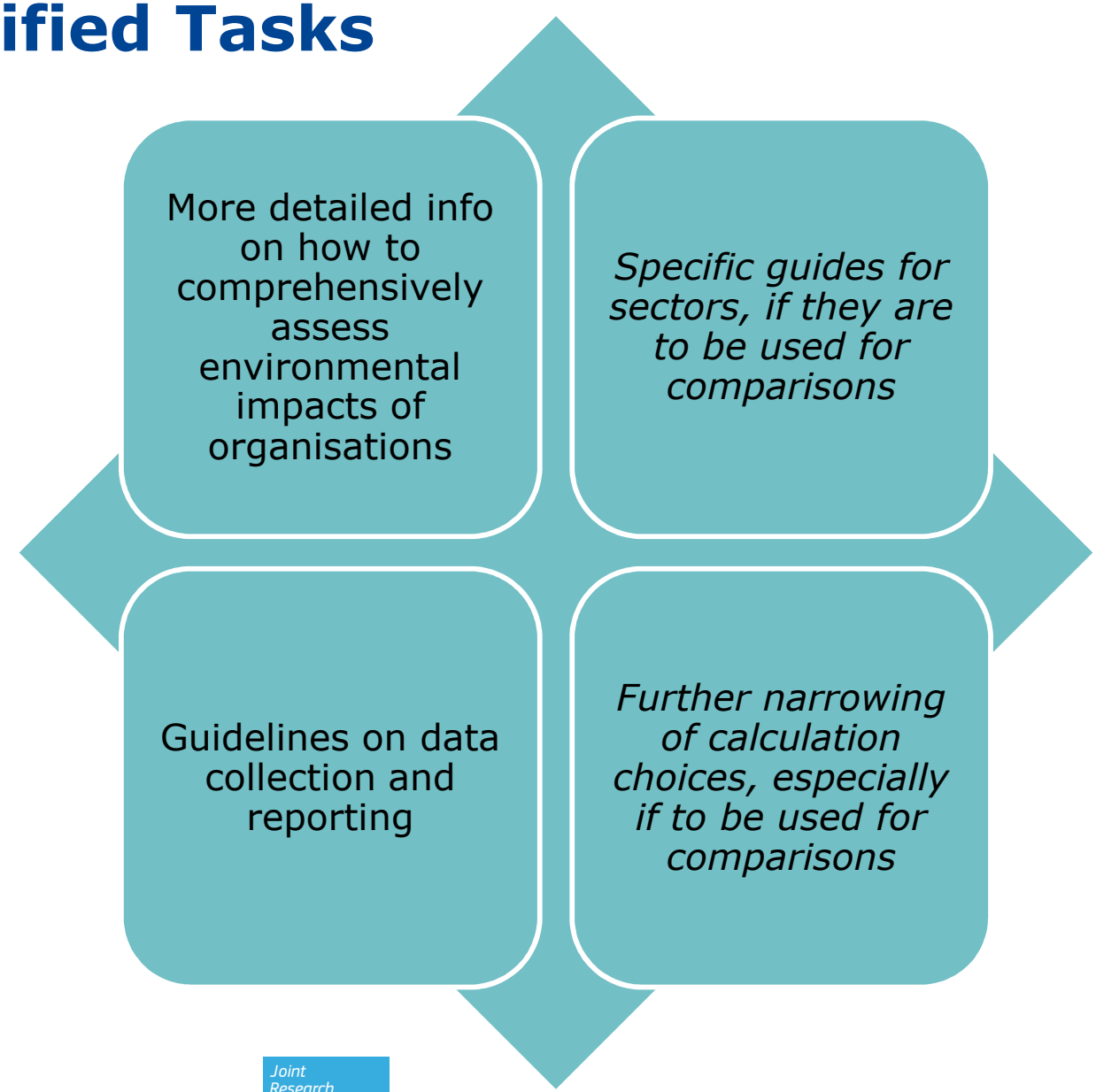
Analysis of existing environmental assessment methods:

Several guides/methods for the environmental assessment exist, but

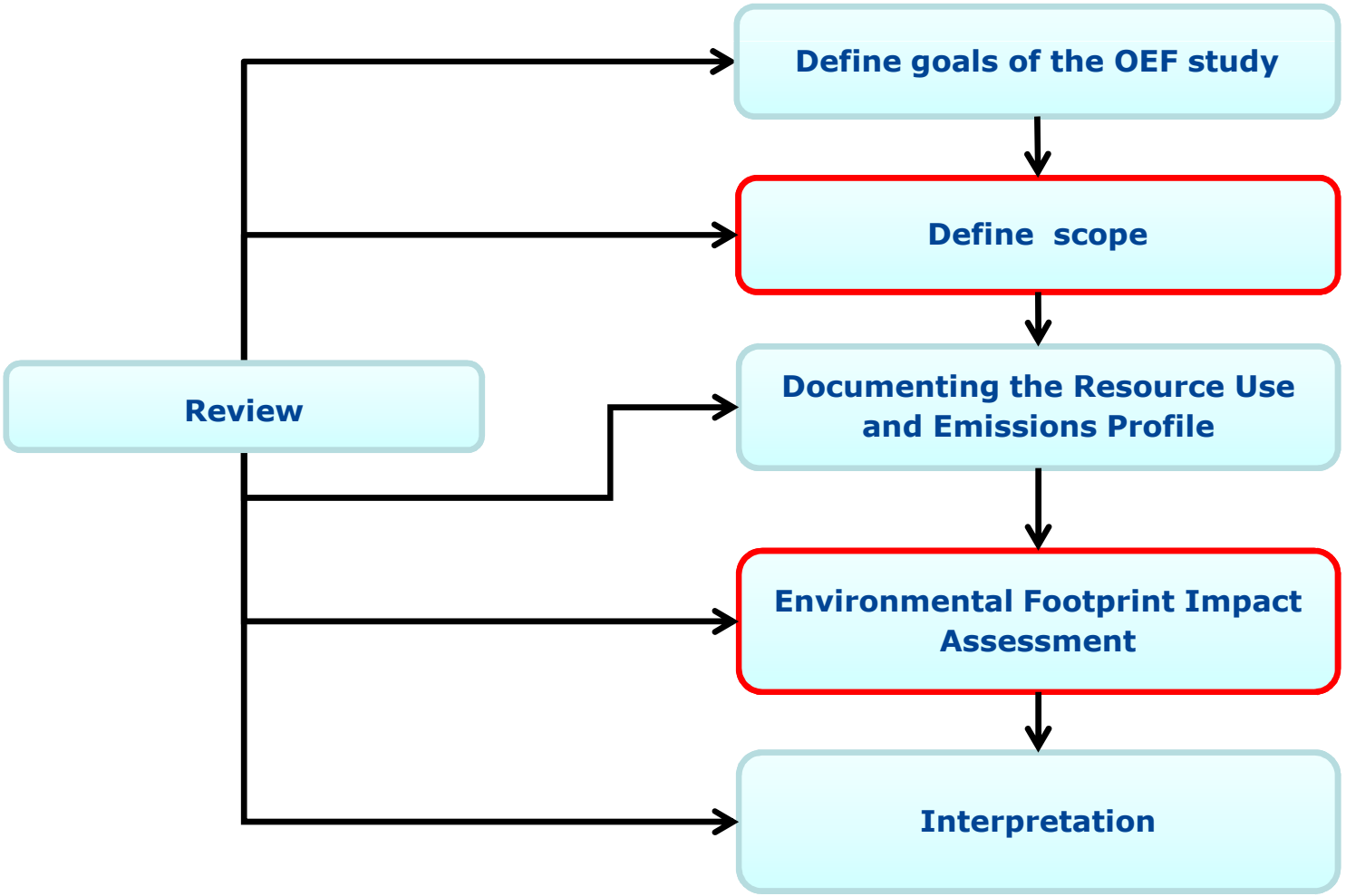


Analysis: Identified Tasks

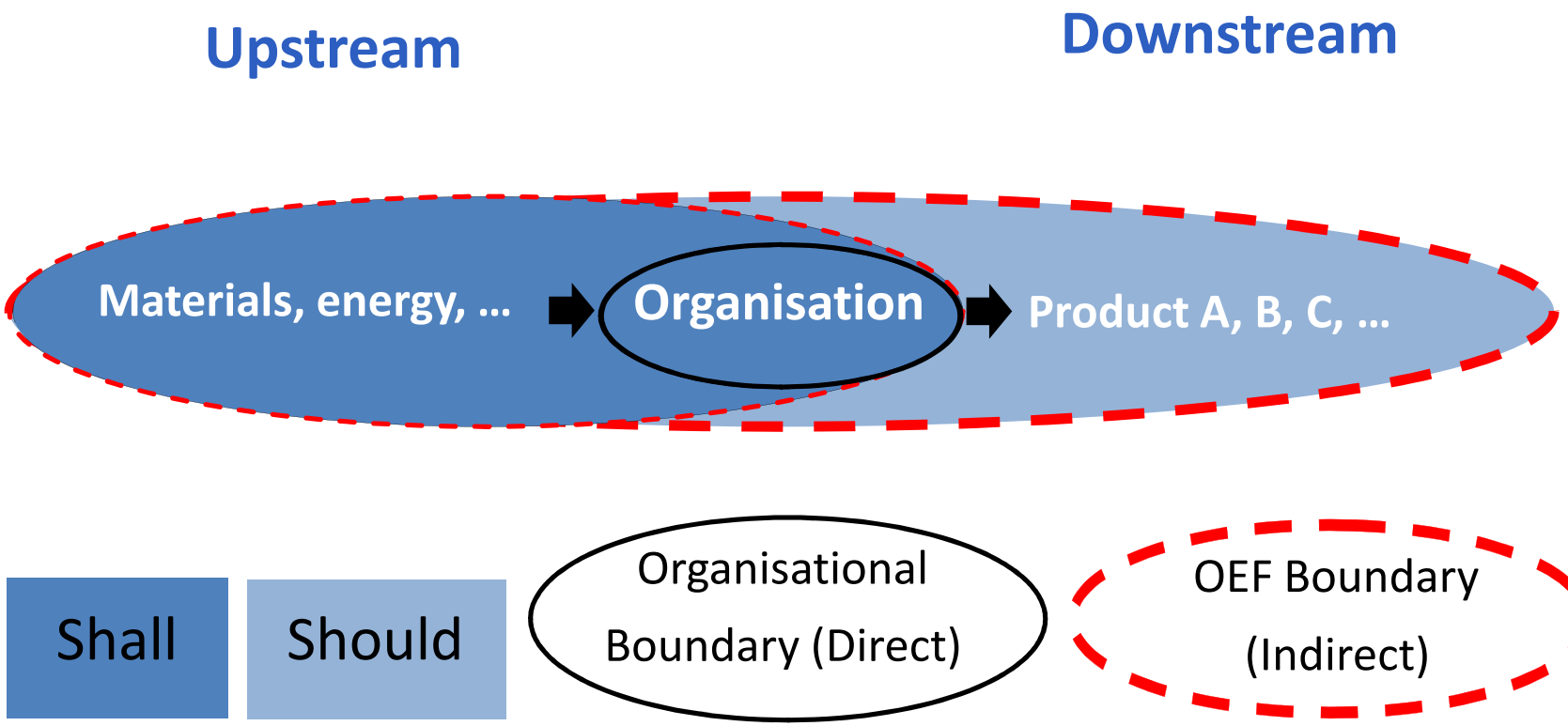
What is needed:



Steps in the OEF method



Organisation Environment Footprint - Define scope, system boundaries



OEF and PEF

Relation to Product Environment Footprint Guide

Environmental Footprint impact assessment

From Carbon Footprint to Environmental Footprint

EF impact categories (14+)
Climate change
Ozone depletion
Ecotoxicity - aquatic, fresh water
Human toxicity – cancer effects
Human toxicity - non-cancer effects
Particulate Matter / Respiratory inorganics
Ionising Radiation – human health effects
Photochemical Ozone Formation
Acidification
Eutrophication - terrestrial
Eutrophication - aquatic
Resource depletion - water
Resource depletion – mineral, fossil and renewable
Land use
…

3 year pilot phase for PEF and OEF

- The Recommendation (2013_179_EU) includes a 3 year pilot phase also to develop specific Organisation Environment Footprint Sector Rules (OEFSR)
- The call for participation is closed, many more applications for product related than organisation related pilots
- the selection of pilots has been conducted by several General Directorates, there will be 3 pilots on OEFSR development (14 product related), official start was November 04, 2013 (more info on DG ENV website)
  - OEF retailer (industry led)
  - OEF absorbent hygiene products (JRC led)
  - OEF metal sector (JRC led)

Role of OEFSR

European Commission

Need (as in OEF)

- More detailed info on how to comprehensively assess environmental impacts
- Specific guides for sectors, if to be used for comparisons
- Requirements on data quality need to be specified

Response (Role of OEFSR)

- Increase clarity and reproducibility
- Increase comparability
- Increase relevance

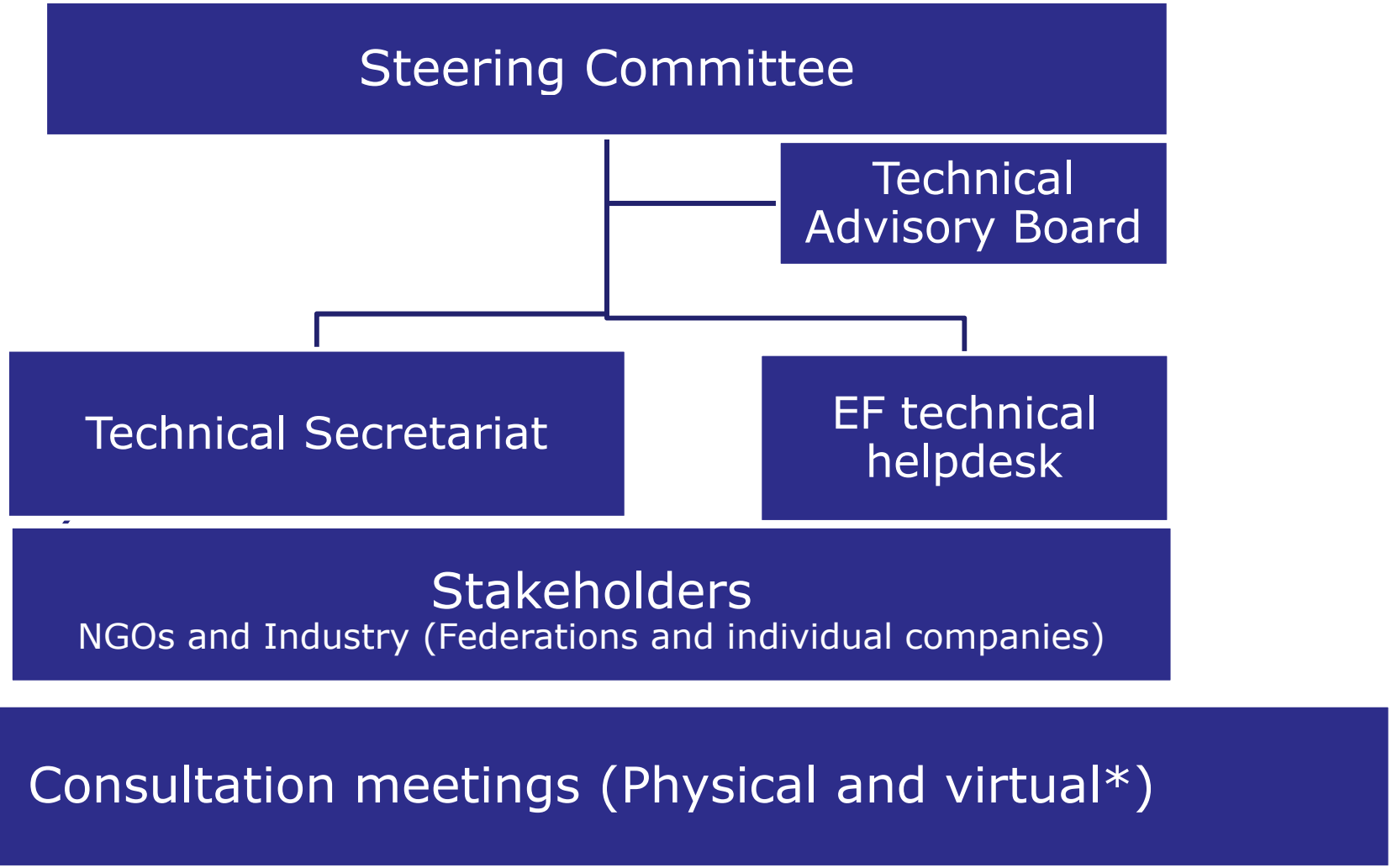
Effect (OEFSR & OEF)

Increase efficiency by reducing time, effort and costs for OEF studies

… which is realized through

- Directing the focus on the most important parameters
  - Processes/activities/products to be included (system boundary)
  - Impact categories and other environmental information
  - If relevant, downstream scenarios (use, transport, distribution, storage, end of life)
- Further specifying data and data quality requirements
  - for which processes specific data shall be collected or use of generic data
  - the requirements for collection of specific data
  - Specify potential data gaps and provide guidance for filling these

Multiple stakeholders involved in a structured open process



*EF virtual consultation Forum: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis

Take home messages on OEF and OEFSR

1) Measure environmental impacts on organisation level based on a life cycle approach to ensure that no important life cycle stages and environmental issues are overlooked

2) Recent European Commission Communication and Recommendation to implement the OEF method and to enter a 3 year pilot testing

3) We have to see how far we get, also regarding the objective of going towards comparability for OEF

4) 3 year pilot phase is a true pilot, especially for the OEF and OEFSR side as less experience is available versus product side

5) You are cordially invited to participate in the pilots - be it within a Technical Secretariat or as stakeholder in upcoming consultations

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

Further links and contact:

Organisation Environmental Footprint (DG ENV website):
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/smgp/organisation_footprint.htm

Sustainability Assessment (H08):
http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/the-institute/units/sustainability-assessment-unit.html

European platform on Life Cycle Assessment :
http://lct.jrc.ec.europa.eu

Email: LCA@jrc.ec.europa.eu