

# Sustainability indicators of a naturally ventilated photovoltaic façade system

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## ABSTRACT

Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) systems have been increasingly used as a means to generate electricity on-site, and their diffusion will increase in the near future. The objective of this article is to carry out a sustainability assessment of a BIPV system installed in Turkey regarding the three pillars: environmental, economic and social potential impact, in order to develop different indicators. For the socioeconomic analysis, a Multiregional Input-Output (MRIO) method was used to estimate production of goods and services, value added creation and employment opportunities. For the environmental evaluation, an Environmental Footprint (EF) analysis was performed. The levelized electricity costs and the greenhouse gas emissions abatement costs were also calculated. Results showed that the socioeconomic effects are relevant, although only a 23% of these effects remain in Turkey. The environmental profile is also good in terms of climate change impacts, showing substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuel alternatives for electricity generation. Regarding the life cycle stages of the technology, the highest environmental impacts are produced in the PV manufacturing processes. The electricity produced is still more costly than fossil-based technologies and in the highest range of PV technologies, but greenhouse gases abatement costs are not so high when compared to other references.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. BIPV systems and the REELCOOP project

Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) systems have been increasingly used (Agathokleous et al., 2018; Curtius, 2018) as a means to generate electricity on-site, and their diffusion will increase in the near future, taking into account the EU regulation on nearly net zero energy buildings (nZEB), called Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD) (EC, 2010). This concept considers a building that has a very high energy performance, that is to say, that energy must be covered basically from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby, usually requiring on-site

electricity generation and sale to the electrical grid (Tripathy et al., 2017).

Photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal (ST) systems, together with biomass or geothermal sources, are the most common renewable energy sources used in buildings. Due to their easy integration into façades and roofs, BIPV shows a great potential to be used as renewable energy system (Silva et al., 2016). One of the limitations of this solution may be the incremental cost of panels, but it could be reduced by avoiding the cost of conventional construction materials; then BIPVs often have a lower price than PV systems (Debbarma et al., 2017). Nevertheless, BIPVs still represent a small share of the PV market. Then, efforts for developing and breaking into the market should be done in order to satisfy the potential demand of the building sector (Biyik et al., 2017). A complete study about advantages and limitations of BIPV systems can be consulted in Baljit et al. (2016).

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It was within this framework that the REELCOOP (REnewable ELectricity COOPeration) project came up. It was an EU-funded seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Research and Development (R&D) project aiming at developing different renewable electricity generation technologies, while at the same time strengthening research cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Mediterranean Partner Countries/Middle East and North Africa (MPC/MENA) countries. Within its framework five renewable energy areas were addressed: PV, ST, concentrated solar power (CSP), bioenergy and grid integration. The overall objective of REELCOOP was to study and develop both distributed and centralised electricity generation systems. This is in accordance with the EU SET-Plan approach of developing a European electricity grid able to integrate renewable and decentralised energy sources. Major objectives were the design, installation and testing of three different prototypes, addressing the different technologies. This study is focused on one of them: a novel BIPV prototype system which was installed in Turkey and tested for about two years.

The performance evaluation of the BIPV prototype and the enhancement of the electrical efficiency have been deeply studied and previously published in (Costanzo et al., 2018)(Araz et al., 2017; Biyik et al., 2017).

### 1.2. Objective: sustainability assessment

The objective of this article is to carry out a sustainability assessment regarding the three main pillars: environmental, economic and social potential impacts. Most of the published scientific manuscripts related to the sustainability aspects of renewable energies usually analyse economic, socioeconomic or environmental impacts separately. Ludin et al. (2018) published a review of Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) of PV technologies considering three main impacts: Climate Change (CC), Cumulative Energy Demand (CED) and Energy Payback Time (EPBT). Other studies, such as Tsang et al. (2016) or Jayathissa et al. (2016), have studied the opportunities and the environmental impact of organic PV modules or some environmental impact categories in an LCA of a BIPV, respectively. Particular LCAs of different types of PV have been carried out by Kim et al (Kim et al., 2014). in Malaysia, Kannan et al. (2006) in Singapore, Hong et al. (2016) in China, Sierra et al. (2019) in Colombia, Menoufi et al. (2013) in Spain, and Lamnatou et al. (2016) in several places of Europe. The main relevant results were the reduction of CC potential when they are compared to conventional energy sources, as expected. Regarding the economic pillar, Gholami et al. (2019) published an article including a holistic review of five case studies around the world. Moreover, two interesting studies about end-of-life (EoL) stage of PV could be highlighted: Goe & Gaustad (Goe and Gaustad, 2016) studied the influence of the recycling process of PV modules in global warming potential (GWP) credits for decreasing impacts in United States (US), while Latunussa et al. (2016) published an LCA about an innovative process for recycling these panels, including a complete state-of-the-art on EoL techniques.

Sustainability assessments considering the above three impacts have gradually increased; at the same time that guidelines related to sustainability assessment methods are being created. Cucchiella et al. (2015) performed a very interesting work about BIPV systems sustainability, but considering only five economical and environmental indicators. An outstanding study from Corona et al. (2016) published both the environmental and socioeconomic effects of a CSP plant located in Spain. A similar complete sustainability study for BIPV systems have not yet been published. This work tries to fill this gap and perform a complete sustainability assessment of a BIPV system that showcasing all the potential environmental social and economic impacts of this technology. In this work, and based

on this approach, two recognized methodologies have been applied to estimate the environmental and socioeconomic effects: i) Multiregional Input-Output Analysis (MRIO) in order to calculate the direct and indirect socioeconomic effects in terms of production of goods and services (G&S), added value (AV) creation and employment; and ii) Environmental Footprint (EF) through an LCA approach in order to calculate the potential environmental impact in different impact categories. Then, this study contributes to the improvement of the global sustainability assessment of this technology in the literature by introducing socioeconomic indicators and a more completed environmental assessment thanks to the use of the European Commission recommended methodology to calculate the EF.

The sustainability analysis developed in this work helps to identify and assess the opportunities for wide-scale solution-oriented application of photovoltaic power electricity generation in an urban environment, by means of the presented sustainability indicators.

## 2. Description of the analysed system

The BIPV system was installed on the façade of a building (Building Y) at Yasar University (YU) campus, İzmir, Turkey. The layout and a 3D-model of the building are illustrated in Fig. 1, where the chosen façade is shown in a red rectangle. As can be seen, the façade is facing towards southeast.

A picture of the BIPV system is given in Fig. 2 while its schematic representation is shown in Fig. 3. This system is named as a ventilated façade and it comprises a total of forty-eight crystalline silicon (c-Si) modules (see Table 1 for the technical specifications), in four rows and twelve columns. The gap between the modules and the wall is kept at 150 mm, causing an increase in the efficiency of the system thanks to the natural ventilation effect. Each BIPV module used in the system has a power of 155 W<sub>p</sub>, making a total capacity of 7.44 kW<sub>p</sub> for the system. Due to the transparency of the modules, the total cell area of the system is 40.10 m<sup>2</sup> while the total BIPV area is 57.60 m<sup>2</sup>.

It is clear from the single line diagram given in Fig. 4; a 7 kW three-phase inverter with two independent Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) inputs was selected for the system. Other necessary units such as DC/AC protections were also installed at the inlet and exit of the inverter. The inverter converts the DC input to AC and feeds the building grid with the generated electricity. Electrical measurements are also made with the inverter at 5-min intervals, thanks to the integrated FTP (File Transfer Protocol) server located inside.

There is also other measurement equipment installed at necessary locations for experimental analyses. The locations of these instruments can be seen in Fig. 5. Air temperatures between the wall and the modules are measured at sixteen different locations (shown in red circles) while the PV surface temperatures are measured on twenty-four points (shown in black circles). On the other hand, the air velocity behind the modules (shown in green circles) and solar irradiation values on the façade (shown in yellow circles) are measured at six locations using thermo-anemometers and pyranometers. These pyranometers are installed on the corners and at midpoints of the façade to be able to take shading effects into account. There is also another pyranometer at the top of the building, which measures global and diffuse irradiances on horizontal. Also, a weather-station is installed just next to the upper string to measure wind velocity and direction, air temperature and humidity. Some pictures of these devices are given in Fig. 6. All these instruments are connected to a sixty-channel data-logger with internet connection measurements and all data are continuously recorded on this data-logger.

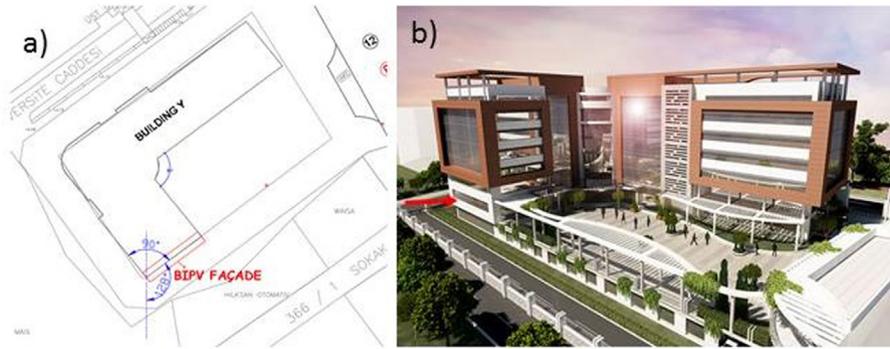


Fig. 1. a) The layout of the installation building, b) 3D-model of the building.



Fig. 2. A picture of the BIPV system (Araz et al., 2017).

### 3. Methodologies

#### 3.1. Socioeconomic assessment

The Input-Output (IO) methodology allows estimating the total economic stimulation produced in the different economic sectors from an increase in the demand of G&S when an investment in a technology/project is produced. The monetary flows existing among economic sectors are analysed throughout the use of Input-Output Tables (IOTs) where columns define the economic value of products or services that a sector needs from other sectors (inputs) to obtain the whole production; whereas rows display the distribution in economic figures of the production of one sector over the rest of the sectors (outputs) (Wiedmann et al., 2007). When various regions or countries around the world are considered, the change in the demand of G&S produced in a country from the investment done in another country can be estimated using multiregional input-output (MRIO) tables (Miller and Blair, 2009). From the MRIO tables, the technical coefficient matrix can be obtained, which represents the amount of G&S expressed in monetary terms that a sector needs from the other sectors to obtain one monetary unit of

production (Caldés et al., 2009; ten Raa, 2006).

Total effects include the estimation of direct and indirect effects. On the one hand, direct effects are the required G&S needed in the investment and operational phases of the project. On the other hand, indirect effects are the economic stimulation produced by the economic sectors which provide G&S to the economic sectors directly involved. The total economic stimulation produced from the direct effects is called the multiplier effect (Caldés et al., 2009).

Employment generation is also estimated with the IO method by means of the addition of a socioeconomic vector expressing the number of employees created in a specific economic sector and year by monetary unit produced.

#### 3.2. Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) abatement costs calculation

Other economic indicators have been calculated, such as the Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE), which consists on the aggregation of all costs of the plant life cycle divided by the electricity generated along the plant life; and the greenhouse gases (GHG) abatement cost, once the LCOE value was obtained and also the results of global warming emissions were known from the environmental analysis.

LCOE has been calculated using Eqn (1), taking into account 30 years of operation and a 4% discount rate. Moreover, a rate of 0.6% of PV modules degradation has been accounted for the calculation of the annual electricity generated.

$$LCOE = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{I_t + M_t + F_t}{(1+r)^t}}{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{E_t}{(1+r)^t}} \quad (1)$$

where  $I_t$  is the investment cost,  $M_t$  is the annual operational and maintenance cost,  $F_t$  is the fuel cost,  $E_t$  is the annual electrical generation.

GHG abatement costs are the costs of reducing GHG emissions and were calculated using the following expression Eqn (2):

$$GHG \text{ abatement costs} = \frac{\text{Difference in LCOE vs coal} \left( \frac{EUR}{kWh} \right)}{\text{Difference in GHG emissions vs coal} \left( \frac{tCO_2eq}{kWh} \right)} \quad (2)$$

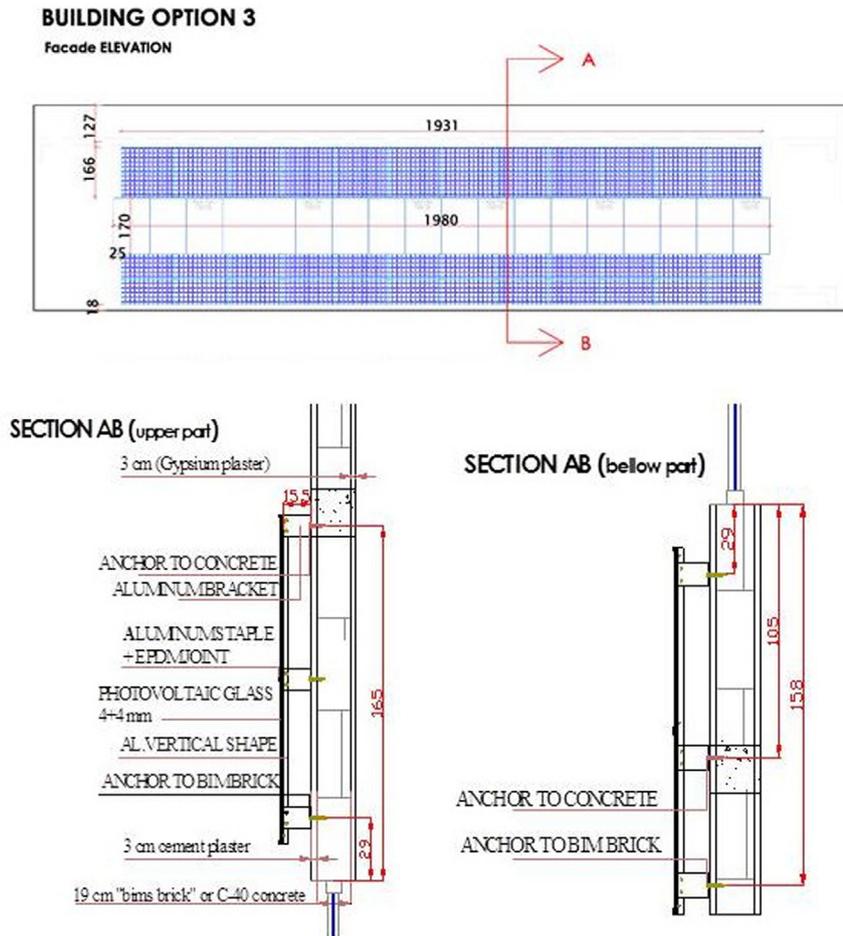


Fig. 3. Dimensions and location of PV system together with the cross sections (all dimensions are in mm).

**Table 1**  
Technical specifications of the BIPV modules.

Electrical data test conditions	
Nominal peak power ( $W_p$ )	155
Open circuit voltage (V)	23
Short-circuit current (A)	8.62
Voltage at nominal power (V)	18
Current at nominal power (A)	8.40
Power tolerance not to exceed (%)	$\pm 10$
Mechanical description	
Length (mm)	1600
Width (mm)	750
Thickness (mm)	8.5
Surface area ( $m^2$ )	1.2
Weight density ( $kg/m^2$ )	20
Cell type	6" mono-crystalline solar cells
Transparency degree (%)	30
Layer type	4 mm tempered glass
Limits	
Maximum system voltage (V)	1000
Operating module temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ )	-40 to +85

The following assumptions from relevant and authoritative sources were considered:

- LCOE of coal electricity: 0.080 US\$<sub>2015</sub>/kWh (IEA, 2015).
- Life cycle GHG emissions of coal electricity: 1.00 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh (NREL, 2018).

### 3.3. Environmental assessment

The Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology is a tool for measuring the potential environmental impact of a product, process or system, throughout its life cycle. It is based on the collection and analysis of the inputs and outputs of the system to obtain

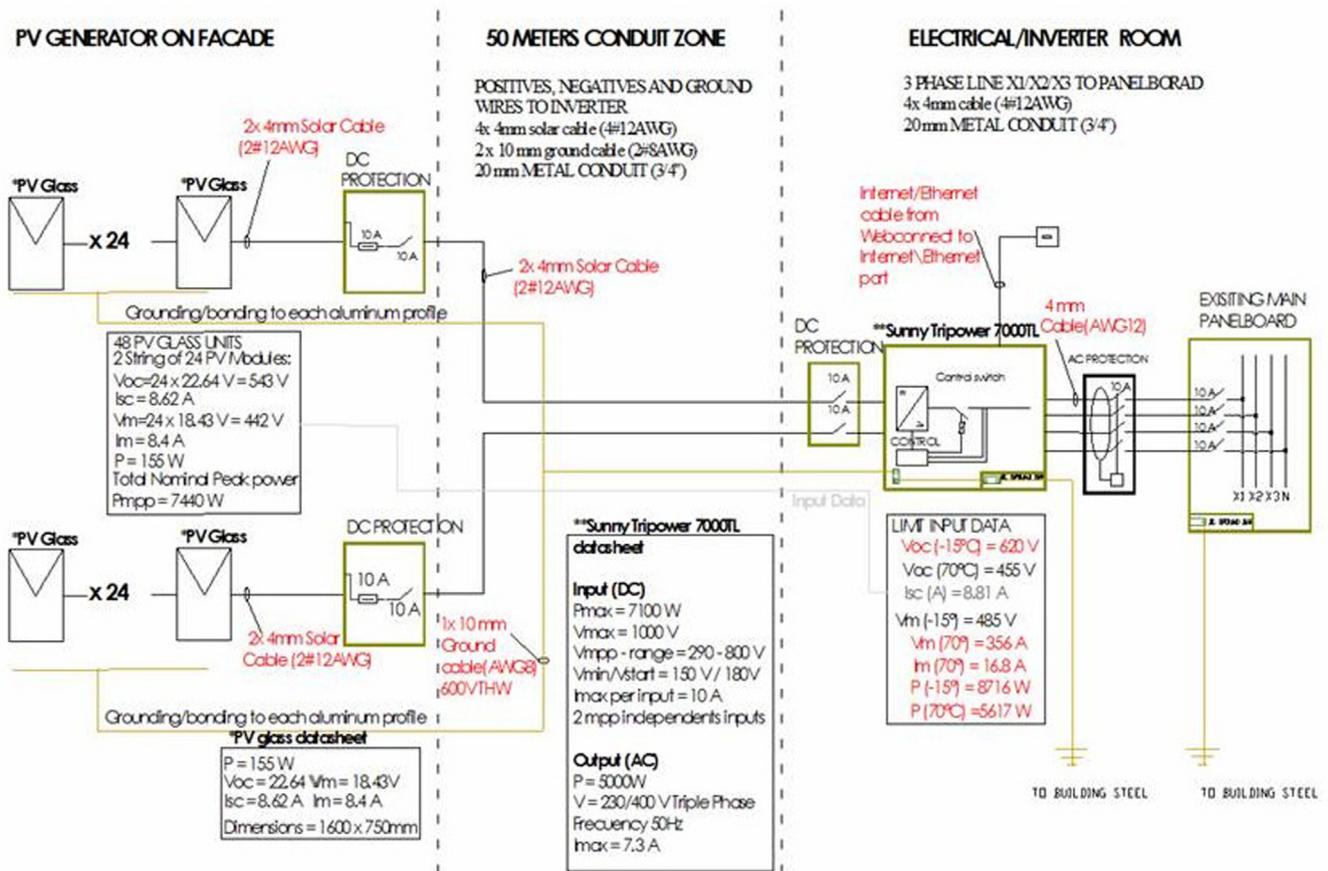


Fig. 4. Single line diagram of the system.

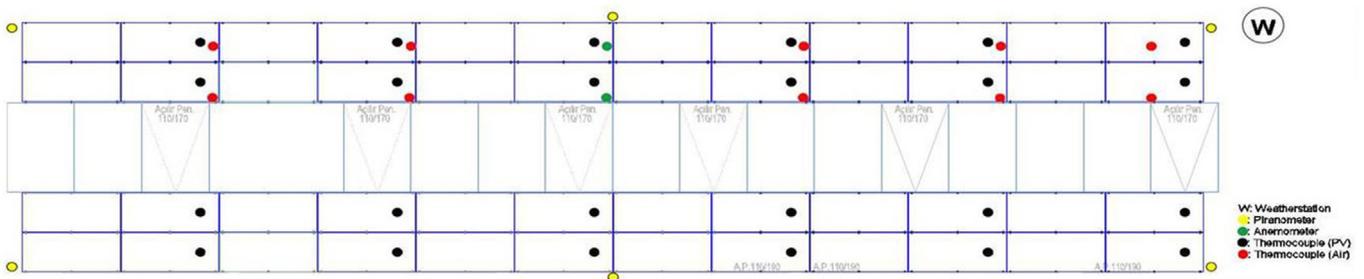


Fig. 5. P&ID diagram of the system (Araz et al., 2017).

results that show the potential environmental impacts. Therefore, it is an objective process that allows evaluating the environmental burdens associated with a product, process or activity, identifying and quantifying both the use of matter and energy and emissions to the environment, to determine the impact of that use of resources and these emissions and to evaluate and implement environmental improvement strategies (ISO, 2006a, 2006b).

Given the diversity of existing methodological approaches, the European Commission (EC) tried to unify them to develop a method of quantifying and characterizing environmental impacts, called Environmental Footprint (EF). The focus of the LCA and the EF and the phases of the assessment are the same, even the factors and the elaboration process. The main difference is the already defined impact categories in EF. The purpose of the EF impact assessment is to collect the inventory data according to their contributions to

each EF impact category. Then, the basis for interpretation of the EF results relatively to the goals of the study is provided. The EF impact assessment methods use models for quantifying the causal relationships between the material/energy inputs and emissions associated with the product life cycle and each EF impact category considered. Each category hence refers to a certain stand-alone EF impact assessment model. The selected categories are the following, as the ILCD midpoint + characterisation method (EC, 2018): climate change [CC], ozone depletion [OD], human toxicity (cancer [HTc] and non-cancer effects [HTnc]), particulate matter [PM], ionizing radiation human health [IRhh], ionizing radiation ecosystems (interim) [IRe], photochemical ozone formation [POF], acidification [AC], eutrophication (terrestrial [EUt], freshwater [EUf] and marine [EUm]), freshwater ecotoxicity [FEC], land use [LU], water resource depletion [WRD], and mineral, fossil and renewable



Fig. 6. Photos of the measuring devices including weather station and vertical pyranometer.

**Table 3**

Operation and maintenance costs assumptions.

O&M annual cost (€ <sub>2018</sub> /kW)	41.39
Plant life expectancy (years)	30
Modules degradation (yearly)	0.6%
Discount rate	4%

resource depletion [MFR] (Benini et al., 2014; EC, 2013; Manfredi et al., 2012).

## 4. Data and assumptions

### 4.1. Socioeconomic assessment

The main database used in this work has been the World Input-Output Database (WIOD), resulted from a European Commission (EC) funded project within the 7th Framework Programme (WIOD, 2017a).

#### 4.1.1. Cost data

Cost data of both investment and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) phases of the BIPV system are shown in Tables 2 and 3. Investment cost data were provided by ONYX, a Spanish company

**Table 2**

PV investment cost disaggregation and manufacturing country.

	€ <sub>2018</sub> (Total)	Country
PV module costs		
Cells	3106.37	Taiwan
Glass (front)	1341.10	Spain
Glass (back)	923.87	Spain
Perimeter tape	40.15	Spain
Mylar	1.35	Spain
Box	298.02	Czech Republic
Wires	49.67	Czech Republic
Silicone	15.73	Belgium
EVA (Ethylene Vinyl Acetate)	330.41	Spain
Copper connections	29.80	Finland
Connections with "L" form	111.76	Finland
Tedlar (transparent)	124.18	Italia
Flux	37.15	Spain
Alcohol	3.93	Spain
<b>Total PV module parts</b>	<b>6413.48</b>	
<b>Personnel cost</b>	2434.78	Assigned 48% to Taiwan, the rest to Spain
<b>Inverter + cluster controller</b>	3523.49	Germany
<b>Metallic Structure (Aluminium)</b>	1549.72	Spain
<b>Electricity needed</b>	581.14	Assigned 48% to Taiwan, rest to Spain
<b>Packaging</b>	282.50	Spain
<b>Total PV module manufacturing</b>	<b>14785.22</b>	
<b>Equipment costs</b>		
AC electrical panel	20.70	Turkey (Istanbul)
Controllor	20.70	Turkey (Istanbul)
DC electrical panel	7.45	Turkey (Istanbul)
Circuit breaker (type 1)	2.07	Germany
Surge protective device (type 1)	156.05	France
Surge protective device (type 2)	125.42	France
Circuit breaker (type 2)	2.38	Germany
Counter	22.25	Turkey (Istanbul)
Residual Current Relay	23.59	Italy
Surge Protective Device (type 3)	253.11	France
Surge Protective Device (type 4)	66.85	Bulgaria
Thermomagnetic Circuit Breaker	63.02	Italy
Cable Conduit	202.82	Turkey (Istanbul)
AC cable	371.91	Turkey (Kayseri)
DC cables (x 4)	248.35	Germany
Ground cable (copper)	77.51	Turkey (Kayseri)
Cable strap	107.00	Turkey (Izmir)
Power supply	114.66	Poland
<b>Total equipment costs</b>	<b>1885.82</b>	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT COSTS</b>	<b>16671.04</b>	

where the PV panel and structure were developed and by the University of Yasar. The addition of the whole costs determined the total costs of the system (as well as the resulting LCOE), that will be displayed according to the corresponding economic sectors and countries.

#### a. Investment costs

Table 1 shows disaggregated investment costs for the BIPV systems well as the corresponding manufacturing country.

#### b. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs

O&M costs and assumptions are displayed in Table 3. Data were provided by Onyx and a 4% discount rate has been applied in order to obtain the Net Present Value (NPV) of these costs along the life time of the prototype. A degradation rate of the modules of 0.6% has been considered in order to compute the total production of electricity along the life time of the prototype.

### 4.1.2. Demand vector

#### a. Investment and Operation and Maintenance demand of Goods and Services (G&S)

Once all costs had been accounted for, they were assigned to the different economic sectors and countries according to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD, 2017). This allowed constructing the demand vector, which corresponds to the direct effects, which will later be used to calculate the indirect effects. Table 4 shows the final demand vector, which has the total investment and operational costs assigned to the corresponding economic sectors of each country. This vector excludes personnel costs, which will later be used to calculate induced effects. These costs are expressed in \$<sub>2011</sub>, since this is the monetary unit of the MRIO tables used.

#### b. Induced demand

Salaries received by employees were reinvested in the economy as an induced an additional demand. Personnel costs related to the manufacturing phase amounted to 2434.78 €<sub>2018</sub>. Considering that the main manufacturing countries were Taiwan and Spain, the total

personnel costs were allocated according to the percentage of components manufactured by both countries: Taiwan 48% and Spain 52%.

Part of the salaries was spent in social security and another part was saved. Therefore, the cost related to social security and related costs and the part of the wages that were saved in both countries were subtracted to those personnel costs. In this sense, from the direct personnel costs, the directly induced demand amounts to 1948.94 €<sub>2018</sub>, from which 1013.45 €<sub>2018</sub> corresponds to Spain and 935.49 €<sub>2018</sub> corresponds to Taiwan. Finally, these costs were distributed along the different economic sectors of each country according to the 'Final consumption expenditure by households' of each country, extracted from the WIOD database (WIOD, 2017b).

Indirect induced effects were calculated in the same way, taking into account the employment results from the IO calculations. The wage vector was constructed taking into account the 'compensation of employees' socioeconomic data from 2011 of the WIOD database (WIOD, 2017b) and the total output of each economic sector in the same year. Then, the vector was multiplied by the total production of G&S from the IO results and the total wages resulted in each country were distributed in the different economic sectors regarding the household expense distribution of each country among their economic sectors (WIOD, 2017b).

#### c. Total demand of Goods and Services (G&S)

Table 5 shows the final demand of G&S including the direct induced demand.

## 4.2. Environmental assessment

### 4.2.1. Goal and scope

The goal of this assessment was to calculate the EF, where the unit of analysis is the production of 1 kWh of electricity output from the prototype. A lifespan of 30 years has been considered, being this the average value of this type of upscaled infrastructures (Ludin et al., 2018). The system boundary comprises all relevant processes from the raw material extraction, production and manufacturing until the stage of end-of-life of the products with the transportation stages included. The different stages considered have been categorized in the processes of manufacturing of the components: PV panel, junction box, electrical installation,

**Table 4**  
Demand vector.

Country	WIOD Economic sector	Investment costs	O&M costs	Total costs (US\$ 2011)
BEL	Chemicals and Chemical Products	16.1	–	16.1
CZE	Chemicals and Chemical Products	356.3	–	356.3
DEU	Electrical and Optical Equipment	3869.9	–	3869.9
ESP	Wood and Products of Wood and Cork	289.5	–	289.5
ESP	Chemicals and Chemical Products	380.8	–	380.8
ESP	Rubber and Plastics	42.5	–	42.5
ESP	Other Non-Metallic Mineral	2321.1	–	2321.1
ESP	Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal	1588.1	–	1588.1
ESP	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	307.1	–	307.1
FIN	Electrical and Optical Equipment	145.1	–	145.1
FR	Electrical and Optical Equipment	547.8	–	547.8
IT	Chemicals and Chemical Products	127.3	–	127.3
IT	Electrical and Optical Equipment	88.8	–	88.8
POL	Electrical and Optical Equipment	117.5	–	117.5
TUR	Electrical and Optical Equipment	850.8	–	850.8
TUR	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.0	5457.1	5457.1
TWN	Electrical and Optical Equipment	3183.3	–	3183.3
TWN	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	288.4	–	288.4
ROW	Electrical and Optical Equipment	68.5	–	68.5
<b>Total costs (US\$ 2011)</b>		<b>14588.7</b>	<b>5457.1</b>	<b>20045.8</b>

**Table 5**  
Disaggregated final demand of G&S.

Final demand of G&S (€ <sub>2015</sub> )	
Investment	14236.16
O&M	5325.18
Induced demand	1948.94
<b>Total demand</b>	<b>21453.89</b>

**Table 6**  
Specific technical and operational data of the BIPV.

Item	Value	Units
PV cells life expectancy	<b>30</b>	<b>Years</b>
Cabling life expectancy	<b>25</b>	<b>Years</b>
Plant life expectancy	<b>25</b>	<b>Years</b>
Annual modules degradation	<b>0.6</b>	<b>%</b>
Nominal Power	<b>7.44</b>	<b>kWh electrical</b>
Estimated operation in hours by year	<b>1500</b>	<b>Hours/yr</b>

mechanical installation (named 'sistema vidrio') and the balance of the system (BoS) of the components –which comprise every component essential to the electrical, thermal or aesthetic integrity of the array, forming part of the overarching power generating facility located in the building. An end-of-life stage of waste disposal in landfill has been also considered, including the transportation stage. No recycling of the PV components has been considered at this point due to uncertainty and lack of data about recycling processes.

#### 4.2.2. Life cycle inventory (LCI)

The considerations and assumptions, such as the energy coefficients and the service periods assigned for the BIPV system, the installations and the operation stages, before compiling inventory data, are detailed in Table 6.

The total electrical production in order to calculate the reference of the analysis unit has been obtained from system measured data: 6000 kWh/year with a degradation rate of 0.6% per year. The total electricity has been calculated to be 170 MWh in 30 years.

Table 7 shows all components considered in the BIPV prototype. Data were provided by ONYX and YU.

**Table 7**  
List of components in BIPV.

Component	Units	Brand	Model	Data supplier
PV modules	48	ONYX	–	ONYX, Spain
Inverter	1	SMA	7000 TL	ONYX, Spain
Junction box	1	ONYX	–	ONYX, Spain
Mounting Mechanism	1	ONYX	Sistema Vidrio	ONYX, Spain
AC Panel	1	Çetinkaya Pano	ÇP 505	YU, Turkey
Control Panel	1	Çetinkaya Pano	ÇP 505	YU, Turkey
DC Panel	1	Çetinkaya Pano	ÇP 501	YU, Turkey
Circuit Breaker	2	ABB	S 201M C 10	YU, Turkey
Surge Protective Device	2	ABB	OVR T2 40-275-C	YU, Turkey
Surge Protective Device	2	ABB	OVR T2 70 N C	YU, Turkey
Circuit Breaker	1	Siemens	5SQ21 C6	YU, Turkey
Counter	1	Köhler	AEL.TF.16-2	YU, Turkey
Residual Current Relay	1	ABB	FH204 AC 25A	YU, Turkey
Surge Protective Device	3	ABB	OVR L 40-275 C	YU, Turkey
Surge Protective Device	1	ABB	OVR N 80-275 C	YU, Turkey
Thermomagnetic Circuit Breaker	1	ABB	XT1N 160	YU, Turkey
Cable Conduit	50 m	Emit Metal	EMT-10.10	YU, Turkey
DC Cable	160 m	Multi Contact	1*6 mm <sup>2</sup>	YU, Turkey
AC Cable	9 m	HES	4*10 mm <sup>2</sup>	YU, Turkey
Ground Cable (Copper)	90 m	HES	1*10 mm <sup>2</sup>	YU, Turkey
Cable Strap (for ground cable)	48	EMİ	–	YU, Turkey
Power Supply	1	Phoenix	UNO-PS/1AC/24DC/100W	YU, Turkey

Appendix A provides de LCI details for all these components.

## 5. Results and discussion

### 5.1. Socioeconomic assessment

#### 5.1.1. Production of G&S and added value (AV) creation

Once the demand vector is constructed, it can be multiplied by the Leontief Inverse Matrix (Leontief, 1986) to obtain the indirect effects, estimating the total demand of G&S of each phase. It is also possible to calculate the multiplier effect, which indicates the global economic stimulation produced by each direct monetary unit invested in the project. Table 8 shows the total production of G&S and value added creation in each project phase. Fig. 7 shows the contribution of direct, indirect and induced effects in the production of G&S and AV creation. The multiplier effect was estimated at 2.75.

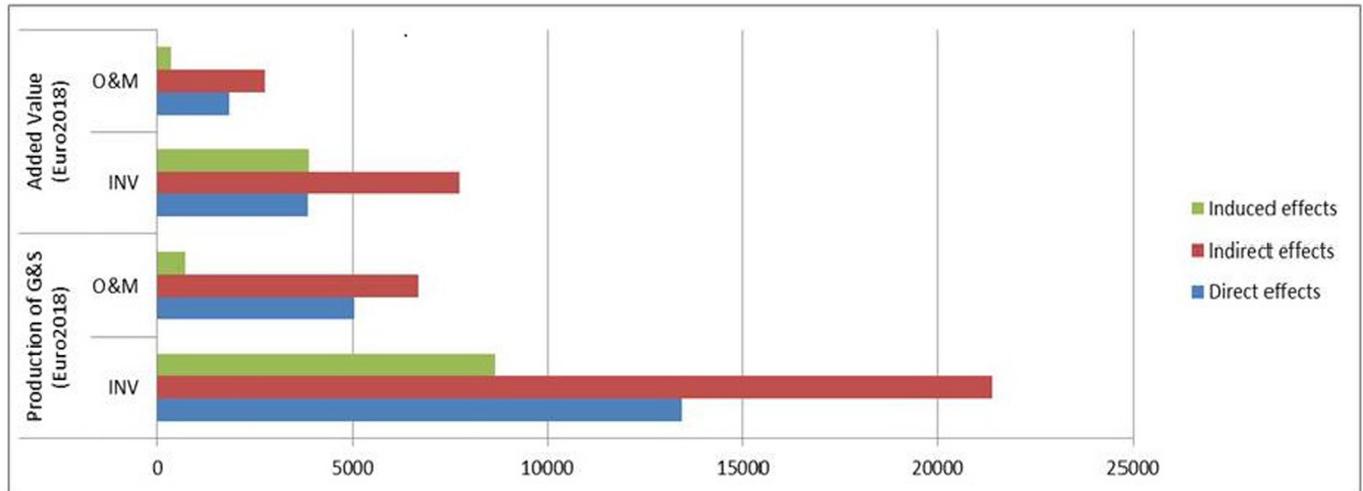
#### 5.1.2. Employment effects

Direct employees were estimated from the personnel cost data. Taking into account the days needed for manufacturing the modules, the total personnel cost given and the average daily wages of the corresponding countries, the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees have been calculated for Spain and Taiwan. Table 9 shows the assumptions considered and the resulting direct FTE for each country.

Indirect FTE employees are calculated by multiplying the employment vector constructed with WIOD data by the total economic effects obtained in the MRIO assessment. The employment vector is calculated by dividing the 'people engaged' socioeconomic account data available for 2011 in each economic sector and country (WIOD, 2017b) by the total output obtained by each

**Table 8**  
Production of G&S and AV creation.

Socioeconomic effects	Total	Investment phase	O&M phase	Induced effects
Production of G&S (€ <sub>2018</sub> )	58921.72	36748.44	12339.58	9833.81
AVcreation (€ <sub>2018</sub> )	21547.74	12234.13	4825.38	4488.24

**Fig. 7.** Contribution of direct, indirect and induced effects in the production of G&S and AV creation (€<sub>2018</sub>).**Table 9**  
Assumptions considered for the estimation of direct FTE for Spain and Taiwan.

Total personnel cost (€ <sub>2018</sub> ):	2434.78
<b>Total manufacturing days:</b>	6 days
4 manufacturing days	2 days Taiwan, 2 days Spain
1 preparation day	Spain
1 packacking day	Spain
<b>Daily cost (€<sub>2018</sub>)</b>	<b>405.75</b>
<b>Average Wage Spain (daily) (€<sub>2018</sub>) [32]</b>	75.44
Spanish employees paid daily (€ <sub>2018</sub> ) (392/73)	5.59
Spanish employees paid in 4 days (€ <sub>2018</sub> )	22.35
<b>Equivalent 1 year FTE Spanish employees</b>	<b>0.059</b>
<b>Average Wage Taiwan (daily) [33]</b>	47.60
Taiwanese employees paid daily (€ <sub>2018</sub> ) (392/46)	8.80
Taiwanese employees paid in 2 days (€ <sub>2018</sub> )	17.59
<b>Equivalent 1 year FTE Taiwanese employees</b>	<b>0.047</b>
<b>Total FTE Spanish + Taiwanese employees</b>	<b>0.11</b>

**Table 10**  
Direct and indirect FTE effects in the investment and O&M phases.

	Investment	O&M
Direct effects	0.34	0.07
Indirect effects	0.45	0.13
Total	0.79	0.20

economic sector and country in the same year from the MRIO. Table 10 shows the total direct and indirect FTE effects in the investment and O&M phases.

### 5.1.3. Contribution of the main economic sectors

Finally, the main economic sectors responsible for the largest shares of the three types of socioeconomic effects analysed are

displayed in Table 11.

### 5.1.4. LCOE and GHG abatement costs

The resulting LCOE amounts to 0.229 €<sub>2018</sub>/kWh and the GHG abatement costs calculated were 170 €<sub>2018</sub>/t CO<sub>2</sub> eq.

## 5.2. Environmental assessment

Once the inventories were compiled, the environmental impact assessment of the prototype was carried out. This is the third stage of the LCA or EF methodology, where the environmental results of all the processes and stages are classified according to the selected impact categories from ILCD midpoint + characterisation method (EC, 2018). In this section the total results are presented according to the different parts of the prototype and the end-of-life:

**Table 11**  
Main economic sectors responsible for the largest shares socioeconomic effects (CHN: China; DEU: Germany; ESP: Spain; TUR: Turkey; TWN: Taiwan; RoW Rest of the world).

	G&S (€ <sub>2018</sub> )	AV (€ <sub>2018</sub> )	Jobs (FTE)
CHN Electrical and Optical Equipment	873.60	0.00	0.05
DEU Electrical and Optical Equipment	3925.33	1502.78	0.04
DEU Real Estate Activities	0.00	402.25	0.00
DEU Renting of M&Eq and Other Business Activities	0.00	381.92	0.00
ESP Other Non-Metallic Mineral	2392.50	728.24	0.02
ESP Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal	2061.39	575.06	0.02
ESP Electrical and Optical Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.05
ESP Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	917.69	0.00	0.00
ESP Hotels and Restaurants	653.23	377.23	0.00
ESP Real Estate Activities	0.00	434.74	0.00
TUR Electrical and Optical Equipment	1003.40	0.00	0.03
TUR Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	8777.97	3216.76	0.11
TUR Construction	31.48	13.56	0.00
TWN Electrical and Optical Equipment	3080.45	665.40	0.14
TWN Wholesale Trade and Commission Trade	0.00	356.40	0.00
RoW Mining and Quarrying	781.33	0.00	0.00
<b>National content (%)</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>

**Table 12**  
Global results of the novel BIPV by impact category.

Impact category	Unit	Total	Total per kWh
Climate change	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq	1.66E+04	9.78E-02
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	3.39E-03	2.00E-08
Human toxicity, non-cancer effects	CTUh	1.27E-02	7.46E-08
Human toxicity, cancer effects	CTUh	1.91E-03	1.12E-08
Particulate matter	kg PM <sub>2.5</sub> eq	8.06E+00	4.74E-05
Ionizing radiation HH	kBq U <sub>235</sub> eq	5.54E+03	3.26E-02
Ionizing radiation E (interim)	CTUe	1.68E-02	9.89E-08
Photochemical ozone formation	kg NMVOC eq	6.96E+01	4.10E-04
Acidification	molc H+ eq	1.02E+02	6.01E-04
Terrestrial eutrophication	molc N eq	2.05E+02	1.20E-03
Freshwater eutrophication	kg P eq	1.16E+01	6.82E-05
Marine eutrophication	kg N eq	2.25E+01	1.32E-04
Freshwater ecotoxicity	CTUe	2.64E+05	1.55E+00
Land use	kg C deficit	2.19E+04	1.29E-01
Water resource depletion	m <sup>3</sup> water eq	2.36E+02	1.39E-03
Mineral, fossil & ren resour depletion	kg Sb eq	5.91E+00	3.48E-05

- The PV panel, which includes the PV module (PV cell), the double laminated, and the manufacturing processes (assembling).
- The electrical installation, which includes the inverters and the cabling.
- The PV junction box.
- The PV mechanical installation, which includes the *Sistema Vidrio* components.

- The BoS, which includes the panels, the circuit breakers, the surge protective devices, the cabling, the counter and the power supply.
- EoL, where the total BIPV is transported by lorry to a landfill.

Table 12 presents the total results and referred to the functional unit. Subsequently, a figure with the contribution of each part by impact category is presented (see Fig. 8)

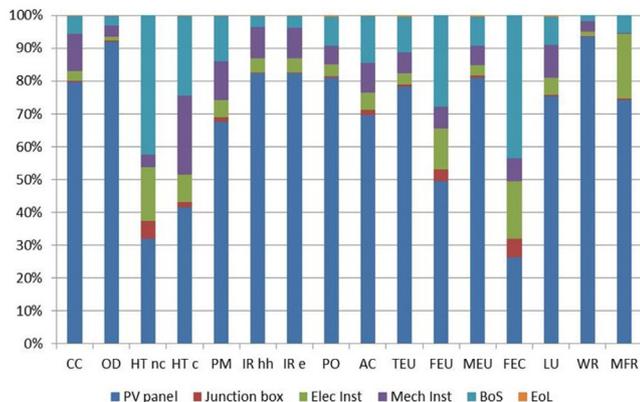


Fig. 8. Contribution of each part in the EF of the BIPV.

## 6. Discussion

Socioeconomic results show a great stimulation of the economy in terms of goods and services production and added value creation. The obtained multiplier effect of 2.75 expresses that for each monetary unit invested directly in the project, a global economic stimulation of near three times will be created.

The main effects on the production of G&S an AV creation are produced in the Turkish Electricity, Gas and Water Supply sector followed by the German Electrical and Optical Equipment sector. As for the job creation results, most of them occur in the Electrical and Optical Equipment sector of Taiwan followed by the Spanish Electrical and Optical Equipment sector. Overall, the domestic content of the socioeconomic indicators is around 23%.

The LCOE obtained (0.23 €<sub>2018</sub>/kWh) is in the range of the PV LCOE values published in the literature (IRENA, 2017), but still higher than fossil-based power generation.

In general terms, EF results presented by electrical kWh are good, considering that they cannot be compared with upper-scale facilities. The novel BIPV has the main environmental impact in the manufacturing of the PV modules, and so a change to Best Available Technologies (BATs) in the PV sector would allow obtaining better results for the EF. Nevertheless, in terms of GHG emissions, if the results are compared to the harmonized results from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the U.S. (NREL, 2018), results are in line with those presented (30–220 g CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh) for similar technologies. When compared to other LCA studies, results are also in line with those from Cucchiella et al. (2015) (71–92 g CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh) or from Sierra et al. (2019), (35 g CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh), eventhough these studies consider other boundaries or characterisation methods.

Considering the calculated reduction in climate change impact category emissions, the resulting GHG abatement costs (170 €<sub>2018</sub>/t CO<sub>2</sub> eq) are lower than other published references that estimate the cost for reducing one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with solar technologies between 500 and 1000 € (Abrell et al., 2017).

The majority of the calculated indicators present better values than those from fossil fuels. As stated in the introduction section, this research not only helps to identify and assess the opportunities for wide-scale solution-oriented application of photovoltaic power electricity generation in an urban environment, but also could have other practical implications on energy policy regarding the optimal design of BIPV systems, as highlighted in Cucchiella et al. (2015). Nevertheless, more research and development of this type of infrastructure should be generally implemented in order to decrease the higher value of LCOE, to help to contribute on the PV technologies learning curve.

## 7. Conclusions

The socioeconomic and environmental impacts of an innovative BIPV prototype plant have been analysed to assess the sustainability performance of the system.

The main concluding remarks are the following:

- Overall the socioeconomic effects are relevant in terms of production of G&S, value added creation and employment generation, although only a 23% of these effects remain in Turkey. In order to maximize the positive socioeconomic effects in Turkey, the national content of the investments has to be maximized. It should be taken into account that the calculated socioeconomic effects are gross estimations. Net results would be obtained if the economic and employment effects of alternative ways of generating electricity were also analysed and subtracted.
- The environmental profile is also good in terms of climate change impacts that show substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil fuel alternatives for electricity generation. The highest impacts are produced by the PV manufacturing processes.
- Finally, it should be highlighted that the electricity produced is still more costly than fossil-based technologies and in the highest range of PV technologies, but GHG abatement costs are not so high when compared to other updated references.

## Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## CRedit authorship contribution statement

**Daniel Garrain:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - original draft, Writing - review & editing, Visualization, Supervision. **Israel Herrera:** Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation. **Irene Rodríguez-Serrano:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - original draft. **Yolanda Lechón:** Writing - review & editing, Supervision. **Arif Hepbasli:** Writing - review & editing, Resources. **Mustafa Araz:** Writing - review & editing, Resources. **Emrah Biyik:** Writing - review & editing, Resources. **Rumming Yao:** Resources. **Mehdi Shahrestani:** Writing - review & editing, Resources. **Emmanuel Essah:** Resources. **Li Shao:** Resources. **Elena Rico:** Resources. **Juan Luis Lechón:** Resources. **Armando C. Oliveira:** Project administration, Funding acquisition.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.121946>.

## Appendix A. Life Cycle Inventory of the BIPV system

### App.1. PV panel

Solar cells are one of the most important components of the PV panels. Because of the lack of data from the panel PV manufacturer, main data have been extrapolated from theecoinvent commercial database v3.3. The selected corresponding dataset of the PV cells from ecoinvent has been 'Photovoltaic cell, single Si, at plant'. This dataset considers a surface of one square meter by module.

Technical and experimental data, both provided by ONYX, are presented in Table A.1 and Table A.2, respectively. More specifically, Table A.3 presents the double laminating part which contains the Ethylvinylacetate (EVA) layer.

**Table A.1**  
Technical data of PV panel, modules and cells.

Item	Value	Unit
PV cells by module	36	units
PV modules by panel	48	units
Module surface	1.2	m <sup>2</sup>

**Table A.2**  
LCI of PV module assembly.

Item	Value	Unit
<b>INPUTS</b>		
PV cells, 36 cell by module	1.2	m <sup>2</sup>
Wood crate, packaging	2.54	kg
Wood pallets, packaging	0.16	kg
Plastic film, packaging	30	g
Transport, plane, from producers to ONYX: 10496 km	5.64	tkm
Electricity	0.83	kWh
Natural gas	2.23	MJ
<b>OUTPUTS</b>		
Carbon dioxide	1.27	Kg
Hydraulic and lubricating oil	0.000216	kg
Plastic	0.02118	kg
Paper and cardboard	0.02824	kg
Glass	0.04235	kg
Wood	0.05647	kg
Iron and steel	0.00424	kg
Metals	0.21176	kg
Waste: Absorbents, filter materials (including oil filters not otherwise specified), wiping cloths, protective clothing contaminated by dangerous substances	0.00706	kg

**Table A.3**  
LCI of materials and processes to manufacture the double laminating part.

Item	Value	Unit
EVA layer	3.34	kg
	86.47	tkm
Flux part	27.46	g
	0.35	g
	0.03	tkm
Silicone	0.03	kg
	0.29	tkm
Ribbon	27.27	g
	0.84	g
	0.14	g
	0.02	kg
	0.11	tkm
Ribbon L	1.02	g
	0.005	g
	0.03	g
	0.0011	kg
	0.004	tkm
Tempered glass	24	kg
	24	kg
	3.6	tkm
Lateral tape	0.001	g
	0.006	tkm
Internal tape	3.46E-07	g
	0.0006	tkm
Transparent TEDLAR	0.7	kg
	0.79	tkm
Isopropyl	33.08	g
	0.006	tkm
Labels	0.002	g
	0.004	g

### App.2. Mechanical installation (Sistema Vidrio)

Table A.4 presents the LCI of the manufacturing of the mechanical installation.

**Table A.4**  
LCI of mechanical installation.

Item	Value	Unit
Aluminium Support (53 units) and Hold brackets (105 units)	31.6	kg
Aluminium anodized staples (197 units)	9.85	kg
Screw (Stainless Steel, 593 units)	3.75	kg
Concrete anchor (Stainless Steel, 106 units)	6.05	kg
Nylon anchor (Stainless Steel, 55 units)	3.14	kg
Bimetal anchor (Stainless Steel, 55 units)	0.61	kg
Fastening (screw and anchors)	13.55	kg
Vertical shapes (aluminium)	117	kg
Glass adhesive	3.6	g

### App.3. Electrical installation

Table A.5 shows the LCI of the manufacturing of the inverter and cables.

**Table A.5**  
LCI of electrical installation.

Item	Value	Unit
Inverter, 2500W	3	units
Cabling	2	m

### App.4. Straddle edge PV Glass: Junction box

The LCI of the junction box and their corresponding devices are shown in Table A.6.

**Table A.6**  
LCI of the junction box device.

Item	Components	Value	Unit
Junction box	Copper	85	g
	Polyphenylene sulfide	119	g
Cabling	Wire drawing process	204	g
	Copper	68.06	g
	Polyols	2.05	g
Diode	Wire drawing process	70.11	g
	Nickel	0.00007	g
	Gold	0.0008	g
	Synthetic rubber	0.001	g
	Silicone	0.005	g
	Silver	0.00006	g
	Tin	2.11E-05	g
	Lead	0.003	g
	Carbon black	0.002	g
	Antimony	0.007	g
	Chemicals organic	0.008	g
	Epoxy resin	0.24	g
	Sand	0.63	g
Connector	Tin	0.04	g
	Copper	1.04	g
	Wire drawing process	1.99	g
	Copper	15.75	g
	Polyamide 6.6	5.25	g
Silicone	Wire drawing process	21	g
	Transport, lorry	0.009	tkm
	Silicone	41.1	g

### App.5. Components of the Balance of the System (BoS)

Tables A.7 to A.13 show the LCI of the different devices that are part of the BoS.

**Table A.7**

LCI of the surge protective device.

Item	Value	Unit
Metal, steel	17.76	g
Glass fiber	7.29	g
Copper	25.56	g
Polycarbonate	35.41	g
Cardboard	20.51	g
Glass moulding, injection	42.7	g
Metal, steel, hot rolling	43.32	g

**Table A.8**

LCI of the mini circuit breaker.

Item	Value	Unit
Steel	50	g
Non-iron alloy components, aluminium.	1.25	g
Copper and copper alloys	12.37	g
Silver	0.12	g
Zinc	2.5	g
Aluminum	3.75	g
Aluminum oxide	2.5	g
Silicon dioxide/glass	8.75	g
Plastic of housing, polycarbonate	40.62	g
other plastic material, glass fibre reinforced	3.12	g
Injection moulding	43.75	g
Hot Rolling, steel	81.25	g

**Table A.9**

LCI of the termomagnetic circuit breaker.

Item	Value	Unit
RESOURCES		
Water	197	g
Wood	0.03	g
Baryte	0.003	g
copper	0.14	g
Iron	0.31	g
Sand	0.15	g
Silver	0.003	g
Coal	0.78	g
Lignite	0.09	g
Natural gas	0.61	g
Crude oil	1.12	g
Uranium	0.00002	g
INPUTS		
Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS)	5.7	g
copper	134	g
Polyester (20% glass fibre)	193	g
Polyester (25% glass fibre)	253	g
Polyamide (25% glass fibre)	9	g
Polyamide (30% glass fibre)	6.7	g
Polyamide, Nylon 6	2	g
Polycarbonate (30% glass fibre)	8.1	g
Polycarbonate	33.5	g
Rolled steel	544	g
Electricity from		
Hard coal	14.9	MJ
Natural gas	32.1	MJ
Lignite	0.98	MJ
Heavy fuel oil	50.7	MJ
Nuclear	11.1	MJ
Hydropower	5.21	MJ
Peat	0.77	MJ
Mix	34.83	MJ
OUTPUTS		
Waste hazardous	0.012	Kg
Waste non-hazardous	0.978	Kg

**Table A.10**

LCI of the counter.

Item	Value	Unit
Polycarbonate	173	g
Polyamide 6.6	203.64	g
Steel	205.38	g
Copper	205.38	g
Injection moulding process	376.64	g
Hot rolling process	410.76	g

**Table A.11**

LCI of the Panel control and Panel AC.

Item	Value	Unit
Polyester resin	2.98	kg
Injection moulding process	2.98	kg
Steel	0.34	kg
Hot rolling process	0.34	kg
Transport, lorry	1.68	tkm

**Table A.12**

LCI of the Panel DC.

Item	Value	Unit
Polyester resin	2.1	kg
Injection moulding process	2.1	kg
Steel	0.28	kg
Hot rolling process	0.28	kg
Transport, lorry	1.20	tkm

**Table A.13**

LCI of the power supply.

Item	Value	Unit
Polycarbonate	340	g
Injection moulding process	340	g

### App.6. End of Life

Finally, the whole components of the BIPV are considered to go to a landfill in the same province in Turkey to an average distance of 70 km. Only transportation by truck is considered. The assumed amount of waste is 1670 kg, and then a total of 116.9 tkm were considered.

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