

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PRODUCT DECLARATION –
AN IMPORTANT
INSTRUMENT FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**

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- The demand of quantified and verified information about the environmental performance of products and services is constantly increasing as a result of the strategic value of environmental issues in companies and organizations all over the world.
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- ❑ **An Environmental Product Declaration is defined** as quantified environmental data for a product with pre-set categories of parameters based on the ISO 14000 series of standards, but not excluding additional environmental information.
 - ❑ **The purpose** of an environmental product declaration (EPD) is to provide easily accessible, quality assured and comparable information regarding the environmental performance of products and services.
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The practical uses of an EPD

EPD – as meeting information demands in the market

- In this period there is an increasing market demand for quantified environmental information; many sectors in society want a system approach by which is possible to communicate relevant and credible information about environmental performance of products and services.
 - By the use of EPDs in the supply chain, LCA-based information can be accumulated and provide the necessary background information for EPDs for end products.
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EPD – as input to environmental management system and tools

- During recent years the implementation of environmental management systems (EMS) according to ISO 14001 and EMAS has also lead to an increasing demand for quantified environmental information requested from energy and raw material suppliers, sub-contractors and entrepreneurs.
 - Within an environmental management system, EPD might become a strategic tool for identifying significant environmental aspects, as an input to the process of continuous improvements.
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EPD – as a dynamic communication tool used concurrently with product development

- EPD meets the need for many companies and organizations to communicate to the market about the continuous improvements of environmental performance of their products or services, concurrently with their products development work.
 - EPDs are flexible since the content of declaration can be modified at any time, in order to reflect improvements in product performance. No other generally accepted environmental communication tool on the market can offer these possibilities.
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One declaration for all national and international markets

- As EPD is usually based on a common report format and do not includes value-based judgments, it is up to the end user of the information to make the final interpretation and evaluation according to own country-specific perspectives.
 - By the use of modern means of communication (Internet) it is possible for one EPD to be used for many national and international audience and markets. This can lead to substantial cost savings for those multinational organizations having a wide international audience to serve with their environmental information.
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EPD simplify information exchange for purchasing, green procurement, eco-design and assessment of suppliers.

- For many professional purchasers it is important that the information used in their evaluation of the environmental performance of products and services to be presented in an easy accessible and recognizable structure and format.
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The characteristics of EPD

□ The EPD is:

- **objective**
 - **open to all products and services**
 - **neutral**
 - **environmental impact – oriented**
 - **instructive**
 - **continuous up-dated**
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- In the field of **environmental design** of the products and services, the EPD is used as an instrument for many purposes as:
 - **evaluation / assessment** of old and new products, each one with their environmental impacts;
 - **action tool** in order to change the products for a better environmental performance at various points in their life cycle
 - **communication tool** between manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and users of the product, by offering important, up-dated information.
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- EPDs are also expected to accelerate society's awareness about environmental issues at large level.
 - EPD is a "living document" concurrent with the product developing process.
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