ECO PLATFORM - AN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE TOOL

Sven-Olof Ryding
Senior Advisor
The Swedish Environmental Research Institute, IVL

President, Pan-European ECO Platform
WHAT IS AN EPD?

- EPD = Environmental Product Declaration

- A document describing the environmental performance of a product in quantitative terms based on an LCA

- A voluntary tool

- No pre-determined threshold values to meet (as in Eco-labelling)

- Credible third-party verification to guarantee full reliability

- International referenced as ISO 14025
THE RECOGNITION OF CONSIDERING THE FULL PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE

Cradle-to-grave

Cradle-to-gate
CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EPD

1. Objective
2. Transparent
3. Comparable
4. Possible to add up information in the supply chain
5. Awareness-raising leading to better environmental understanding among staff and employees leading to a better competitive edge
EXAMPLE OF AN EPD:
(Nesher Cement, Spain)
WHAT ARE PRODUCT CATEGORY RULES (PCR)?

- A detailed description of
  - Calculation rules to follow according to LCA
  - Format for reporting

- Necessary information for preparing an EPD

- Are developed in a fully transparent way often in close cooperation with experts from the business sector

- Validity for 3-5 years before being revisited and (eventually) upgraded.
WHAT IS A PROGRAMME FOR EPDs?

- The rationale for an EPD programme should follow ISO 14025 and EN 15804.

- The task of a Programme Operator (PO) is to develop and guarantee the existence and public availability of a programme which is independent and transparent including:
  - Programme instructions for developing PCRs
  - Rules for verification
  - A public registry of existing PCRs
  - A public library of registered EPDs.
PRESENT SITUATION OFTEN LEAD TO MARKET CONFUSION
as EPDs from different EPD programmes ...

... seem to adapt international standards and regulations in a somewhat different way
FOUNDING OF THE ECO PLATFORM

- MoU was signed in September 2011 in Brussels
- 26 parties from 16 European nations
- Founding of three Working Groups to start working on a common understanding in the way to prepare and verify EPDs according to EN 15804
MOTIVATION FOR THE ECO PLATFORM

- Support the provision of unbiased, credible, consistent and scientifically sound information in form of EPDs for construction products
- Reduce EPDs’ production cost to a minimum for manufacturers across Europe
THE ASPIRED SOLUTION

EPDs from different EPD programmes are based on the same agreed-upon concepts and can be comparable
ECO PLATFORM WAS ESTABLISHED ON JUNE 4, 2013.

Established programmes participating as Founding Members:

1. INIES (France)
2. IBU (Germany)
3. MRPI (Netherlands)
4. EPD Norge (Norway)
5. ITB (Poland)
6. DAP Habitat (Portugal)
7. ZAG EPD (Slovenia)
8. DAPc (CATEEB, Spain)
9. Global EPD (AENOR, Spain)
10. Environdec System (Sweden)
11. EPF Global (UK)
ECO PLATFORM ORGANIZATION

The ECO Platform consists of:

- **General Assembly / Board** (established EPD programs + Construction Products Europe, CPE)
- **Working Group I** (open for all members) responsible for content, format and technical background of EPDs
- **Working Group II** (open for all members) responsible for common quality system
- **Working Group III** (open for all members) responsible for communication (e.g. with EC and industry)
ECO PLATFORM PRINCIPLES

The ECO Platform...

• is based on voluntary support and has a very lean structure to cause minimum effort

• will function as umbrella organization of European EPD programmes

• is open for members from European Trade Associations, LCA Practitioners and Green Building Councils (BGCs)

• is an European non-profit organization (AISBL)

• does not act as EPD programme or programme operator in itself
OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE ECO PLATFORM

- Establish new voluntary business activities to prevent unnecessary EU Regulations in areas where market requirements expect the industry sector to move on by its own and take full responsibility of its environmental impact.

- Find an attractive approach where different EU stakeholders can work together to harmonize the interpretation and use of ISO and EU standards in the building sector.

- By the strong ambition to voluntary work together in the environmental arena to gain recognition by the market to act in a consistent manner to fulfil its obligation according to the EU 2020 sustainability goals.
DETAILED OBJECTIVES OF THE ECO PLATFORM WORK

- Develop robust and consistent requirements of what to include in a "core EPD" based on ISO 14025 och EN 15804 (different EPD programmes are allowed to cover information of local concern)

- Suggest a common reporting format for EPDs in the European building sector

- Establish a mutually-agreed process for quality assurance and verification of ECO Platform EPDs

- Definition of rules for mutual recognition across Europe of this EPDs' core-data
ADVANTAGES AND OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- To accommodate different market requests for credible and quantified environmental information of goods and services.

- Offer ready-made and verified information well-suited for public procurement.

- Provide factual-based and comprehensive information for different communication activities, annual reports etc.

- Better in-house knowledge of the possibility to improve environmental performance of own product in a cost-effective way as a basis for eco-design work and follow-up activities.
THE INTERNATIONAL EPD® SYSTEM

- Having the same objectives as the ECO Platform, but on a global context covering all types of goods and services

- The world’s first programme of its kind according to existing standards and the only present international system

- The most comprehensive programme open for all goods and services including international accepted PCRs for more than 150 product categories and around 500 EPD®s registered in more than 20 countries around the world.
Current worldwide coverage of the International EPD® system

Different co-operations both with countries and regions either having no EPD programme as well with those having one
The International EPD® system – coverage for different product categories
GEDNET – ANOTHER APPROACH FOR INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION
An internation discussion forum about EPDs but no close practical co-operation

- Created based on Japanese initiative 1999 including some 10 programme global P0s

- Offers an open platform for exchanging experiences on EPD work between different EPD programme operators with input on necessary activities to be taken in future international standardization work for better harmonization.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

If I can be of any help and future assistance, please contact me at:

sven-olof@environdec.com
ryding@eco-platform.org