Life Cycle Assessment and Environmental Product Declarations, where are we going?

Present and future of EPDs and PLCA in Europe

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INTRODUCTION: MARKET DRIVERS

- Demand
- Regulation

Economy

Environment
REGULATION: EUROPEAN STRUCTURE

- European Commission
  - Directives
  - Reglaments
    - Law (mandatory)
- CEN
  - Standardization
    - Voluntary
  - CE marking
    - Harmonized standard

Mandatory

Principles settings
PCRs are developed within a programme. Programme operators work at national level. Several programmes are running in Europe.

- Convergence process is ongoing
REGULATION: FUTURE OF EPDs

European Structure

European Commission

Communications
- Principles settings

Directives
- Law (mandatory)

Reglaments
- Voluntary

CEN

Mandate

Standardization
- CE marking

Harmonized standard
Every regulation regarding EPDs and LCA in construction works is based on the communication COM 2013/196 “Single Market for Green Products”.

- New indicators aligned with PEF
- Revising the definitions of functional unit and declared unit

It is a system developed for final products fully based on CO2 emissions.
REGULATION: FUTURE OF EPDs

NEW MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION

- Modules C1, C3, and D will be compulsory, ¿and B?
- New formulation for EoL
- Definition of Reference Product/benchmark
- Aggregate results, communication B2B...
- Improving data quality (data bases)

FROM PRODUCTS TO ELEMENTS

Cradle Gate

Scenarios/Assumptions

Grave

+ years + uncertainties
EPDs and LCA are included as a criterion for Green Public Procurement.

**Option 1: Aggregation of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)**

The performance shall be evaluated using Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) that are in compliance with ISO 14025, EN 15804 or equivalent. The ITT shall specify which of the following two methods shall be used for the evaluation:

1. Aggregation of EPD characterisation results (the raw LCA results for indicators) for each building element, or


Revision of Green Public Procurement Criteria for design, construction and maintenance of roads

Lay down the criteria of awarding a contract by using the ‘life-cycle costing.'
Commercial certification tools: LEED, BREEAM, …
No political willing when Public Bodies are the clients.

Politicians care about short-term and LCA and LCCA go against this philosophy.

**WHAT IS OUR EXPERIENCE IN EUROPE?**

- Public bodies do not like comparisons.
- LCA and LCCA means assigning resources for the future (less political independence).
- One exception: The Netherlands.
CONCLUSIONS

- Regulatory framework is strong in Europe regarding EPDs and LCA.
- The future of these methodologies do not depend on regulations but on the market.
- EPDs will be pushed by the buildings market.
- LCA and LCCA of buildings will be developed in the mid-term.
- Very pessimistic regarding implementation of PLCA in public procurement.
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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