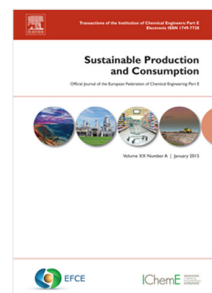


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Mapping diffusion of Environmental Product Declarations released by European program operators

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1 Mapping diffusion of Environmental Product Declarations released by European Program
2 Operators

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10 Abstract:

11 In order to facilitate the adoption of green requirements in public procurement, European
12 Commission has developed the Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria for various typologies of
13 products and services. Almost all GPP criteria require environmental labels as means of proof that
14 the goods or supplies correspond to the required environmental characteristics. Among the labels
15 required, there are type III labels, based on a life cycle assessment study.

16 The aim of this study is to (i) investigate to what extent a specific type III label, called Environmental
17 Product Declaration (EPD), is spread in Europe and (ii) explore whether there is a correspondence
18 between institutional initiatives toward GPP and the market.

19 This study explored the valid EPDs presented on the websites of the European program operators
20 between September and December 2016. The identified EPDs were quantified and classified
21 according to the program operator, title of the reference Product Category Rule (PCR), country,
22 language and the product based on a classification system developed by the United Nations.

23 In total, 4,888 EPDs were collected mainly released by the Institut Baum und Umwelt e.V. (IBU) and
24 PEP ecopassport (PEP). The obtained results showed that countries with the greater number of EPDs
25 are France and Germany and that construction products are the types of products labelled most. The
26 analysis of the languages used in the EPDs showed that 45% of the identified EPDs are written in

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