



# **ECO PLATFORM**

**A VEHICLE FOR HARMONIZATION OF  
LCA-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMUNICATION IN THE BUILDING  
SECTOR**

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**Chairman ECO Platform**

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# WHY AN ECO PLATFORM?

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International pressure for reporting of environmental information



# WHAT DO WE MEAN WITH LCA-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION?



- Environmental declarations according to ISO 14025, where EPD = Environmental Product Declaration
- A voluntary document describing the environmental performance of a product in quantitative terms
- No pre-determined threshold values to meet (as in Eco-labelling)
- Credible third-party verification to guarantee full reliability



# WHAT IS A PROGRAM FOR EPDs?

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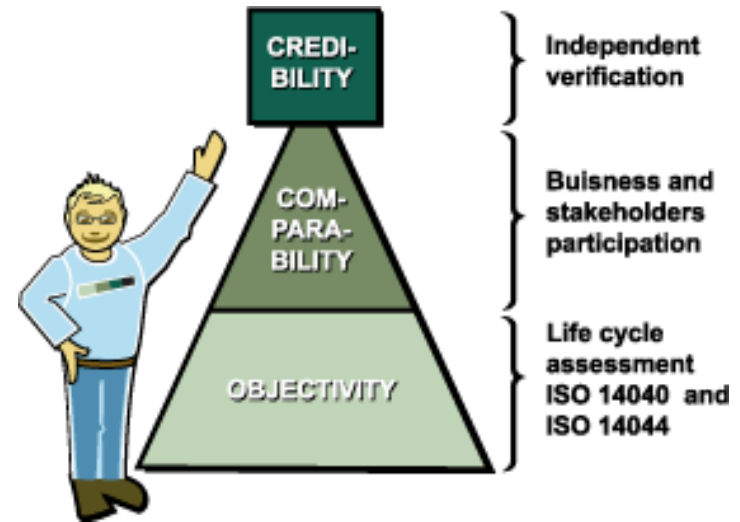


- **The rationale for an EPD programme should follow ISO 14025 and EN 15804**
- **The task of a Programme Operator (PO) is to develop and guarantee the existence and public availability of a programme which is independent and transparent including:**
  - **Programme instructions for developing PCRs**
  - **Rules for verification**
  - **A public registry of existing PCRs**
  - **A public library of registered EPDs**

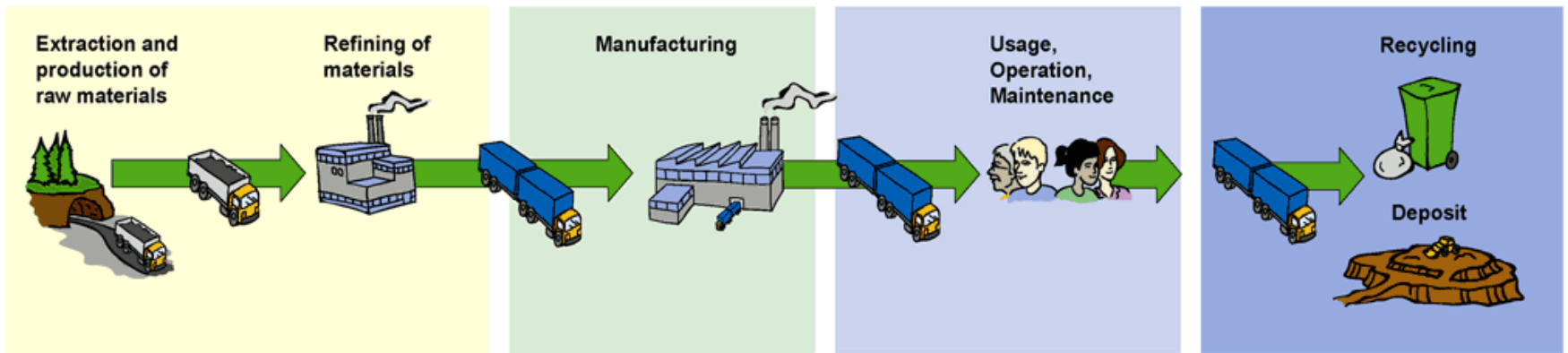


## CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EP

1. Objective
2. Transparent
3. Comparable through common PCR rules
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



# RECOGNITION OF THE FULL PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE



—————→  
**Cradle-to-grave**

—————→  
**Cradle-to-gate**



# CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT



Assessment of sustainability and  
comparison of products  
only reasonable on building level



# MARKET CONFUSION



Development of eco-labelling world has led to a proliferation of different systems



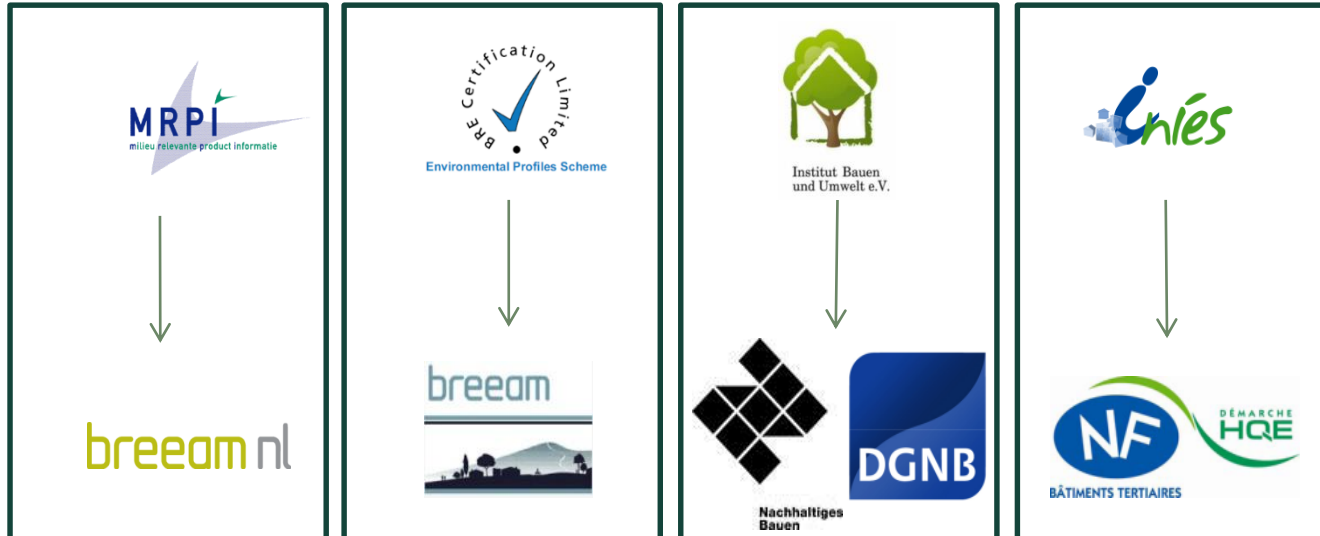
Maybe it not that critical as ecolabels can not be used for comparisons



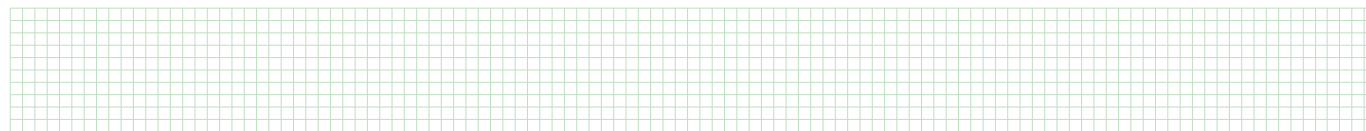


# PRESENT SITUATION OFTEN LEAD TO MARKET CONFUSION EVEN FOR EPDs

as EPDs from different EPD programmes ...



... seem to adapt international standards and regulations  
in a somewhat different way



# GOAL

Enable common application of EPD in Europe with the next steps in mutual recognition



- AENOR
  - Bau-EPD
  - BRE
  - DAPc
  - DTI
  - Centrohabitat
  - EPD Norge
  - Environdec
  - ICMQ (Italy)
  - IBU
  - ITB
  - MRPI
  - Sustainova
  - ZAG (Slovenia)
  - INIES
- 
- Altensis
  - Eurima
  - PE International
  - SGS



# EPD PROGRAM OPERATORS ESTABLISHED THE ECO PLATFORM



Established European EPD Programmes participating:

1. HQE/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. BRE Global (UK)
12. EPD Danmark (Denmark)
13. Bau EPD GmbH (Austria)



# ORGANIZATON

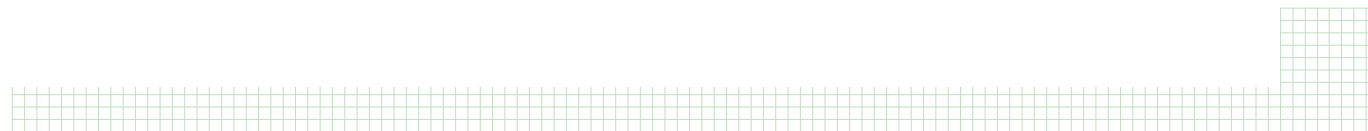
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**Board** – Representatives from est. EPD Programmes + CPE  
(legal representation, general principles)

**Working Groups** – Representatives from all members

- ★ **WG I** - Development of ECO EPD Rules  
(Requirements on content, format and technical background of ECO EPDs, requirements of European regions and EU, Liaison to CEN)
- ★ **WG II** - Compliance of ECO EPD Rules  
(internal quality procedures, verification, audits)
- ★ **WG III** - Internal & External Affairs  
(communication e.g. with European Commission and industry)



# ORGANIZATION

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## Members

- ★ European EPD Programme Operators
- ★ European (Trade) Associations
- ★ Green Building Councils
- ★ LCA Practitioners

## Communication with

- ★ European Commission
- ★ CEN (especially interaction with Product TCs)





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# 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**



# OBJECTIVES

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- **Development of a common core EPD for construction products through a consistent implementation of EPD according to EN 15804**  
(no additional requirements on the ECO level, but additional requirements are allowed to meet national requirements)
    - **Development of a common European format for EPDs' core-data**
  - **Definition of rules for mutual recognition across Europe of this EPDs core-data**
  - **Development of a common quality management and verification procedures**



# 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**

## HARMONIZATION

Mutual agreement on European core EPD

Reduced effort for industry one EPD for Europe

## LIFECYCLE APPROACH

Based on harmonized standards

Taking into account all phases of product lifecycle

## VOLUNTARY CHARACTER

No legal obligation to create EPDs

No artificial thresholds set

## COMMUNICATION

EPDs enable credible communication with construction value chain on sustainability impacts



# LEVEL A

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## Common dossier for ECO Platform EPD program operators

I.  
Documents covering verification requirements:

- Independency verifier
- Qualification/competence
- Quality control / arbitration

II.  
Verification checklist

III.  
List of verifiers



# LEVEL B

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## Procedure for mutual recognition between program operators

- ★ Comparison of program operators addresses:
  - The organization of the operators with respect to PCR development and use
  - Comparison of the operators' program content
  - Gap analysis
  - Continuous maintenance of mutual recognition, the M|ONPAN
- ★ Final agreement
- ★ Audit process
- ★ Logo
- ★ Time frame: ambitions are 2015 but:

We have to learn from verification audits

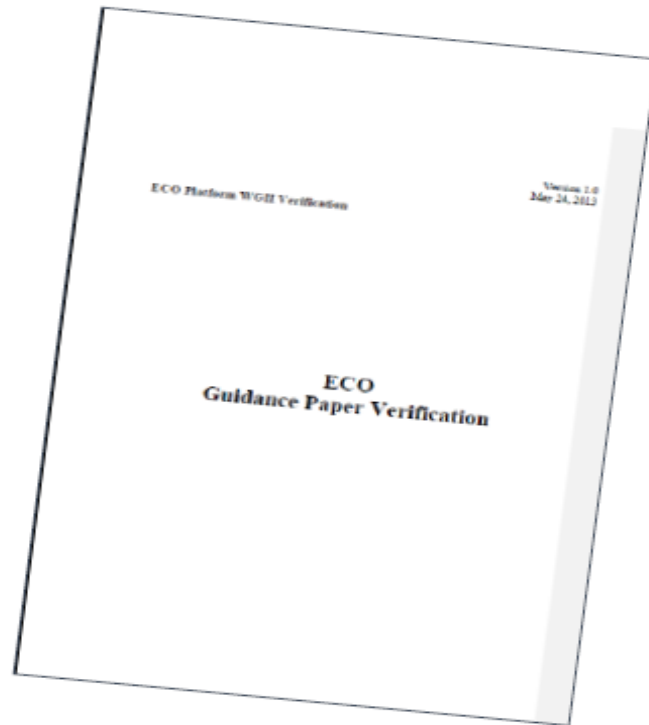


# COMMON QUALITY LANGUAGE

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Management EPD program + verification procedures



# COMMON QUALITY RULES FOR VERIFIERS



# COMMON QUALITY VERIFICATION PROCESS

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ECO checklist

- ★ Compliance with EN15804



# ADVANTAGES AND OPTIONS

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- **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 products in a cost-effective way as a basis for eco-design work and follow-up activities**



# THE ASPIRED SOLUTION



EPDs from different EPD programmes are based on the same agreed-upon concepts and can be comparable

# THE ASPIRED SOLUTION

EPDs



Green Building Rating Schemes

**RATING SYSTEMS ARE INDEED USED FOR COMPARISONS**



# COMMON APPLICATION

★ EPD can be applied throughout Europe if necessary with adaptations

- AENOR
- Bau-EPD
- BRE
- DAPc
- DTI
- Centrohahitat
- EPD Norge
- Environdec
- ICMQ (Italy)
- IBU
- ITB
- MRPI
- Sustainova
- ZAG (Slovenia)
- INIES



# USEPDs PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION

- National regulators
- European regulators
- Public procurers
- Designers
- Contractors
- Various in-house use



# THE INTERNATIONAL EPD<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM

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- **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 with around 500 EPD's registered in more than 20 countries around the world.**



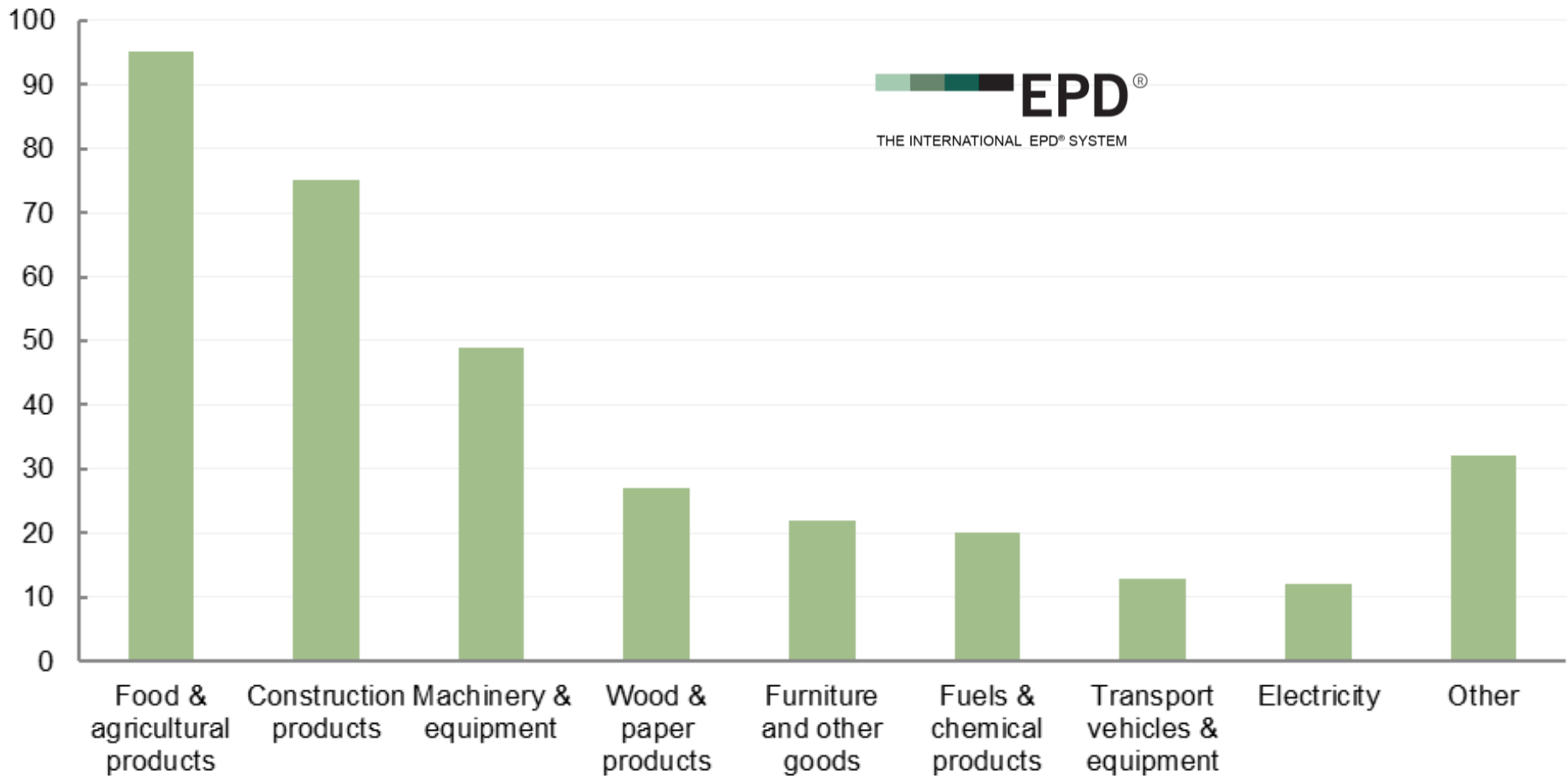
THE INTERNATIONAL EPD<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM



# CURRENT WORLDWIDE COVERAGE



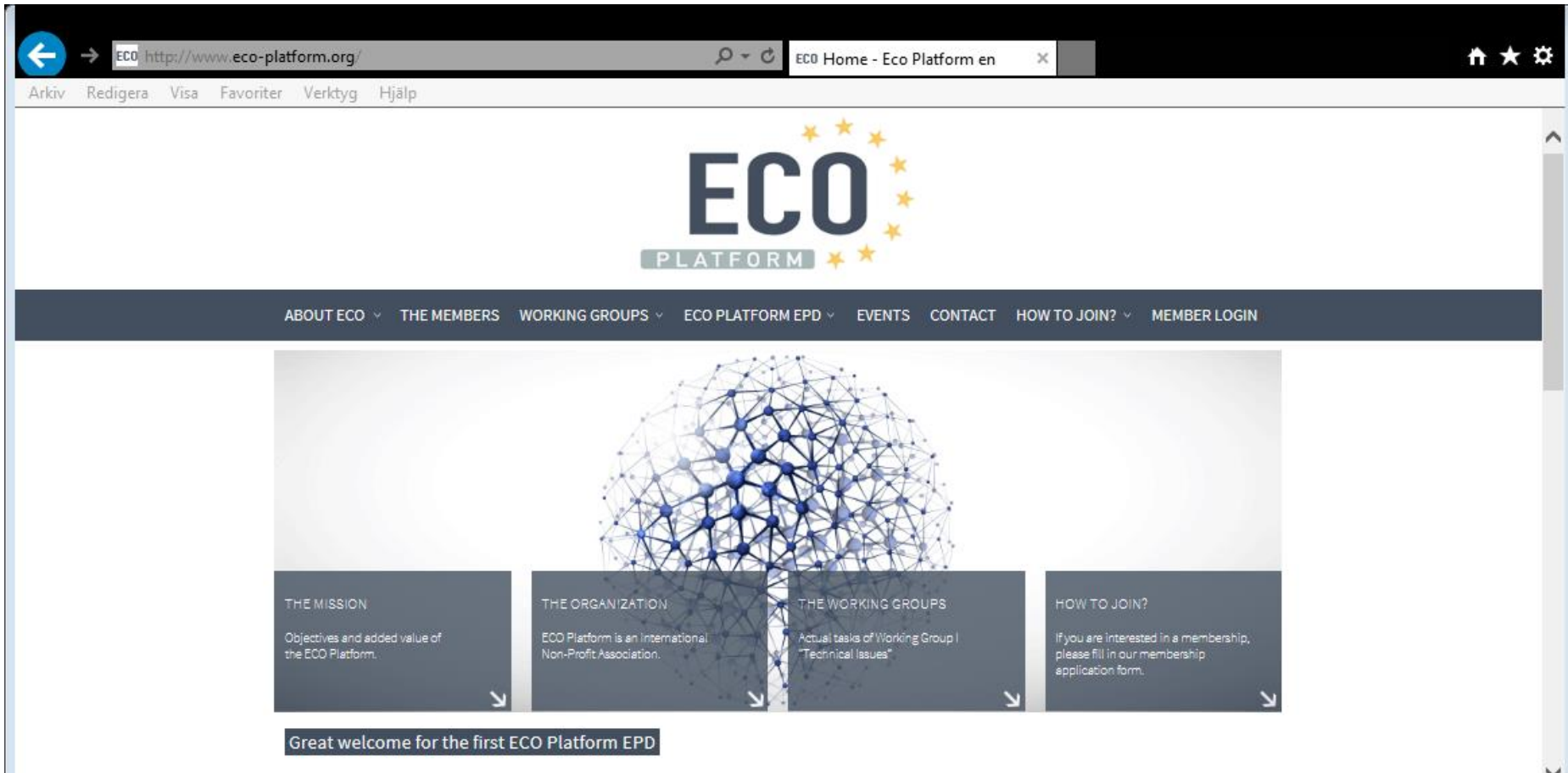
# COVERAGE FOR DIFFERENT PRODUCT CATEGORIES



# THE HOMEPAGE



<http://www.eco-platform.org/>





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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

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