# Environmental Product Information Systems in Austrian Companies

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The goal of the project is an investigation of the actual use of environmental product information and assessment methods and tools in Austrian companies and the identification of further potentials for the benefit for the companies. This goal is achieved on one hand by a survey done in a sample of companies, selected from those holding a certificate of EMAS, ISO 14.000 or “Ökoprofit”, those with eco-labelled products, companies of the building sector, members of the "cluster of car producers" in Austria, chemical, electronic, and metal industries. The so identified about 1.000 companies have been contacted with a questionnaire, asking for their general environmental situation, the knowledge and the application of assessment methods as well as the respective applications. In following interview visits at a part of the sample companies the further potential and the benefit for the companies by applying product assessment will be identified and evaluated in relation to the environmental characteristic of the company.

On the other hand a broad survey on assessments methods and tools lead to a collection of possible methods for application in companies. Their ability and suitability for the single applications in the companies were characterised based on the experiences of qualified practitioners and consultants in addition to the team members. Hereby the essential properties like scope, data requirement, included dimensions, priorities, type of the results, expenditure, qualification were looked at.

The results from the company survey and from the method-scan are consequently combined to the information which of the methods or tools suite best for the identified applications. Based on these conclusions a manual is created to support and facilitate the systematic use of product assessment methods in companies. Finally the needs for further scientific development of the single methods are discussed.

The project is scheduled for 18 month, ending with the end of 2002, the paper will give an overview on the actual status in summer 2002.

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