

Digital Product Passport (DPP) for steel & aluminium: Policy landscape and company-level data mapping

Background

The European Union is introducing Digital Product Passports (DPPs), part of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), to serve as a key mechanism for improving transparency, circularity, traceability, and overall environmental sustainability of products across the value chain. As an essential component of the European Circular Economy Strategy, the DPP aims to bridge the gap between the consumers' demand for transparency and the limited availability of reliable product information. The DPP will become mandatory for several product groups, including steel and aluminium, on the EU market. To effectively implement the legal requirements for DPPs in the Swedish steel and aluminum sectors, it is essential to have a good understanding of several key aspects, such as the DPP-related policy landscape and relevant existing company-level data used for different environmental and sustainability purposes.

This thesis work will be supported by the ongoing strategic project *Digital Metal Values*, funded by the Swedish Metals & Minerals program (part of Impact Innovation – an initiative of the Swedish Energy Agency, Formas, and Vinnova). The project is coordinated by the metals research institute Swerim (<https://www.swerim.se/en>) in collaboration with 25 project partners.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of the thesis is to summarize the EU policy landscape related to DPPs for metals, map relevant company-level data sources, and identify and analyze potential gaps in data required for the development of DPPs. Examples of key tasks include:

- Providing a comprehensive summary of EU and Swedish regulations and policy instruments related to DPPs
- Collecting and categorizing relevant company-level data sources that are currently used in various contexts and may contribute to the development of DPPs
- identifying differences in DPP-related policy instruments and data availability between the steel and aluminium sectors
- Assessing DPP-related data gaps and exploring potential opportunities to improve data access and quality

The thesis work will be carried out in close collaboration with researcher and industrial partners in the project *Digital Metal Values* and will include interviews with relevant actors.

Prerequisites

Applicants should be independent, proactive, and have strong oral and written English skills, as well as good collaboration abilities. Proficiency in Swedish is considered as an advantage. Previous knowledge and experience in metal value chains, life cycle assessment (LCA), and environmental systems analysis are preferred but not mandatory.

Number of students: 1

Language: The thesis will be written in English.

Start date: January or February 2026, to be agreed upon.

Location: Swerim AB, Isafjordsgatan 28A, 164 40 Kista, Stockholm.

Last application date: 10 January 2026 (please note that interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis, and the position may be filled before the deadline).

Additional information: The student will receive a reward of 50 000 SEK upon successful completion of the thesis, provided that it meets the quality standards of the collaborating Swedish university and fulfills Swerim's requirements and expectations.

Application documents: Submit via Swerim's website at <https://www.swerim.se/en/career/vacant-jobs-and-master-degree-projects>

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