Ecodesign, what does it mean?
Ecodesign is an approach to the design of products and services with special consideration for their environmental impacts during the whole lifecycle. It can be defined as the design that considers the environmental aspects and/or impacts associated with products, processes or systems under a life cycle approach.

Methodology: ecodesign in four easy steps
To start an Ecodesign Project, the user only needs to be registered at http://edtool.sostenipra.cat and create a new project. Then, edTOOL will guide the user through the ecodesign process which is divided in four steps: (1) Initial Definition of the product to be ecodesigned; (2) Environmental Assessment of our product; (3) Ecodesign Strategy Selection and (4) generating a Summary report for the implementation of the ecodesign strategies.

edTOOL database
edTOOL includes a database of 100 environmental improvement strategies that could be applied to ecodesign products and services. This database was created with the experience obtained by the Sostenipra research group, who has been ecodesigning products during the last 7 years, and the knowhow in sustainable logistics provided by Province of Bologna.

Potential users
edTOOL is conceived as the first step towards ecodesign in companies. edTOOL can also be used by the public administration as a means of proof of the implementation of ecodesign into products and services. Thus, it may be considered in green public procurement processes. Similarly, policy makers may use the tool to foster the implementation of ecodesign and to make it mainstream.

edTOOL, the new ecodesign tool
edTOOL is a web-based tool that can be used in any computer with Internet access for the ecodesign of products and services. It was developed within the European ECO-SCP-MED project for the integration and capitalization of Mediterranean countries' experiences in view to future policy evolution and eco-innovation programs. edTOOL provides a practical and structured methodology that allows businesses of any type to integrate the life cycle thinking approach and ecodesign into their value proposition. Nowadays, the tool and the corresponding user guides are available in English, French and Spanish.