



e-Learning tool addressed to SMEs about EMAS - 2008-1-ES1-LEO05-03197

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What do you know about EMAS?

EMAS is a dynamic instrument for environmental protection and sustainable development.

It is a management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. The scheme has been available for participation by companies since 1995 (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1836/93 of 29 June 1993) and was originally restricted to companies in industrial sectors.

Since 2001 EMAS has been open to all economic sectors including public and private services (Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001). In addition, EMAS was strengthened by the integration of EN/ISO 14001 as the environmental management system required by EMAS; by

adopting an attractive EMAS logo to signal EMAS registration to the outside world; and by considering more strongly indirect effects such as those related to financial services or administrative and planning decisions.

Participation is voluntary and extends to public or private organisations operating in the European Union and the European Economic Area (EEA) — Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.



EMAS is about being part of a modern organisation

Why EMAS?

But what do you think are the benefits of implementing the EMAS to your enterprise? EMAS is first of all about the sustainable use of resources, minimal pollution, employee involvement and profitable business! The motto could be **"Do good and talk about it"** which means that it is important for organisations to demonstrate that not only the business's philosophy but also its investment strategy and day-to-day operations are sustainable.

Some of the internal and external benefits of implementing EMAS in your company are:

- **Reductions in energy and resources expenditures**
- **Additional cost reductions**
- **Improved employee morale**
- **Better internal communication**
- **Modernisation of management**
- **Better communication with the authorities**
- **Better recognition by the banks and insurance companies**
- **Improvement of your public image**
- **Advantage for obtaining future public contracts**
- **Snowball effect on suppliers**

EMAS means: Act for your children and the future generations!

Today every economic activity should be sustainable and compatible with the concern to preserve and guarantee the quality of life for future generations. Organisations in every sector should have this ethical commitment and demonstrate a responsible attitude to the use of natural resources as well as the carrying capacity of planet Earth. EMAS is a tool for sustainable development.



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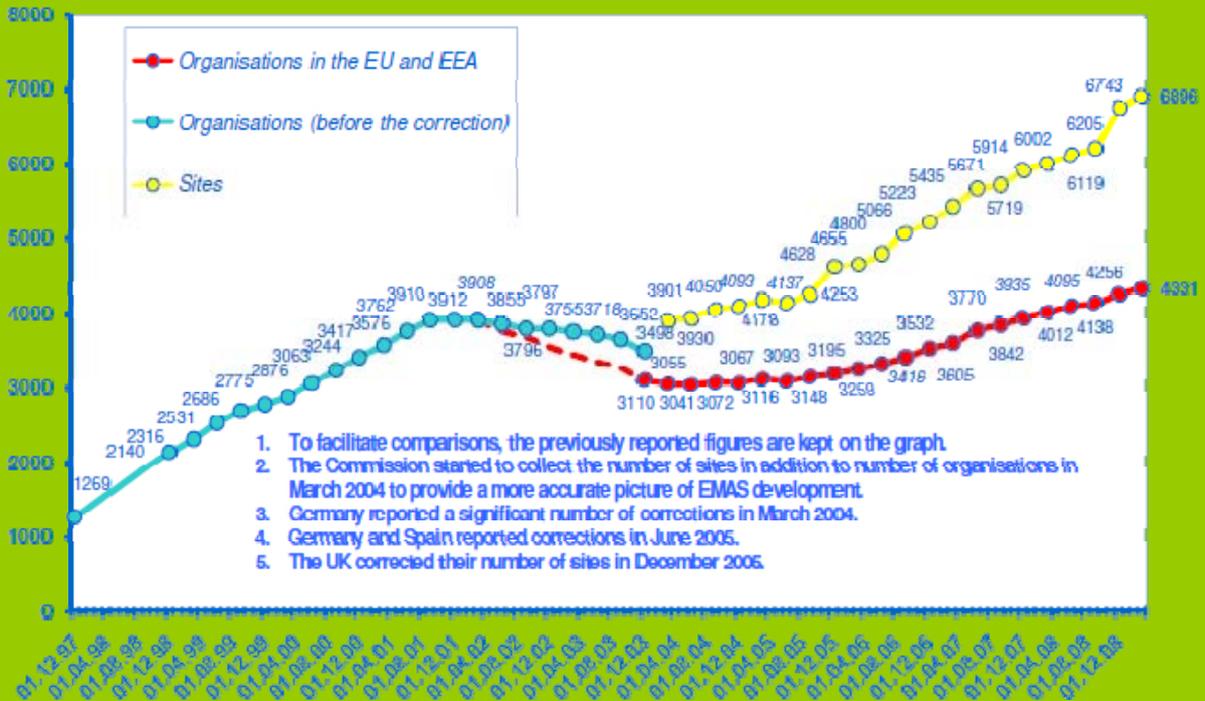
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Implementation of EMAS

The EMAS-registered companies throughout Europe are already thousands and are increasing rapidly. The figure below (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm) is representative:



EMAS STATISTICS EVOLUTION OF ORGANISATIONS AND SITES Quarterly Data 31/03/2009



The ECO-SME+ project

ECO-SME+ is a Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation project, which is being developed in the framework of EU Lifelong Learning Programme that aims to strengthen the role of education and training within the Lisbon process not only to promote competitiveness but also sustainable economic growth and social cohesion.

Why? Because the proposed activities deal with three basic themes and stakeholders to achieve that goal: environmental management systems, e-learning and SMEs. The Project is based on the necessity of improving the low levels of participation in adult learning as well as reinforcing sustainable development. "ECO-SME+" wants to eliminate as many barriers as possible in order to increase number of SMEs that implement EMAS and tools to support individuals undertaking self-directed learning.

The objectives of the Project are the following:

- To adapt the results of the SAVIGMA (e-learning tool) and ETIV (about EMAS) projects, to create an innovative e-learning tool, able to train SMEs on the requirements and steps necessary for implementing the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme;
- To inform, make aware and train SMEs on the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, through the e-learning tool which will be developed in the project field.
- To identify the level of implementation of the EMAS system in SMEs belonging in the country partners (both national and regional level);
- To identify good practices and SMEs' barriers in the introduction and implementation of the EMAS system;
- To carry out a pilot experience in which 75 SMEs, coming from the country partners, will test the e-learning tool on EMAS;
- To promote and disseminate the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme EMAS in SMEs, still unknown for many of them.



Project activities

The partnership consists of experienced organisations in different fields of Environmental Management from Spain, Portugal, Greece, Austria, Slovakia and Finland. There have been already two partner meetings. The first one was in November 2008 in Ciudad Real, Spain where all organisations had the opportunity



to get a first view of the project and the needed work. There was a discussion on EMAS, the differences with ISO 9001 and the benefits for SMEs by implementing it. The second meeting was held in Porto Slavo, Portugal in April 2009. In this meeting there was an



analysis of the target group's (SMEs) needs among the different European countries. The expected benefits and the faced problems were analysed in order to take them into consideration when designing the final e-tool. The next planned partner meeting is in October 2009 in Vienna, Austria.



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