



e-Learning tool addressed to SMEs about EMAS - ES/08/LLP-LDV/TOI/149025

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

### ECO-SME+ website

*The helpful tool for every enterprise that want to learn more or implement EMAS.*



*E-learning tool for SMEs on the Community  
Eco-management and environmental audit*

ES/08/LLP-LDV/TOI/149025



ECO-SME+ is a Leonardo da Vinci- transfer of innovation multilateral project developed within the framework of EU Lifelong Learning Programme. The ECO-SME+ project aims to promote and disseminate the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) -recently known or still unknown among SMEs- by developing an learning course to train in this subject.

The ECO-SME+ consortium works in order 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.

During the last period the partners have worked developed the project's website (<http://www.eco-sme.eu/>) which is more than just an information portal for EMAS. It is a helpful tool for the companies that want to learn what are the necessary steps to implement EMAS.

The consortium with the website hopes to deal with two major SME`s problems. First, the difficulties they have to face to carry out continuous training actions, usually due to the lack of time; second, the lack of support do not let companies develop an environmental management system.

If you need practical advises on EMAS and how to implement it just visit ECO-SME+ website:  
<http://www.eco-sme.eu>

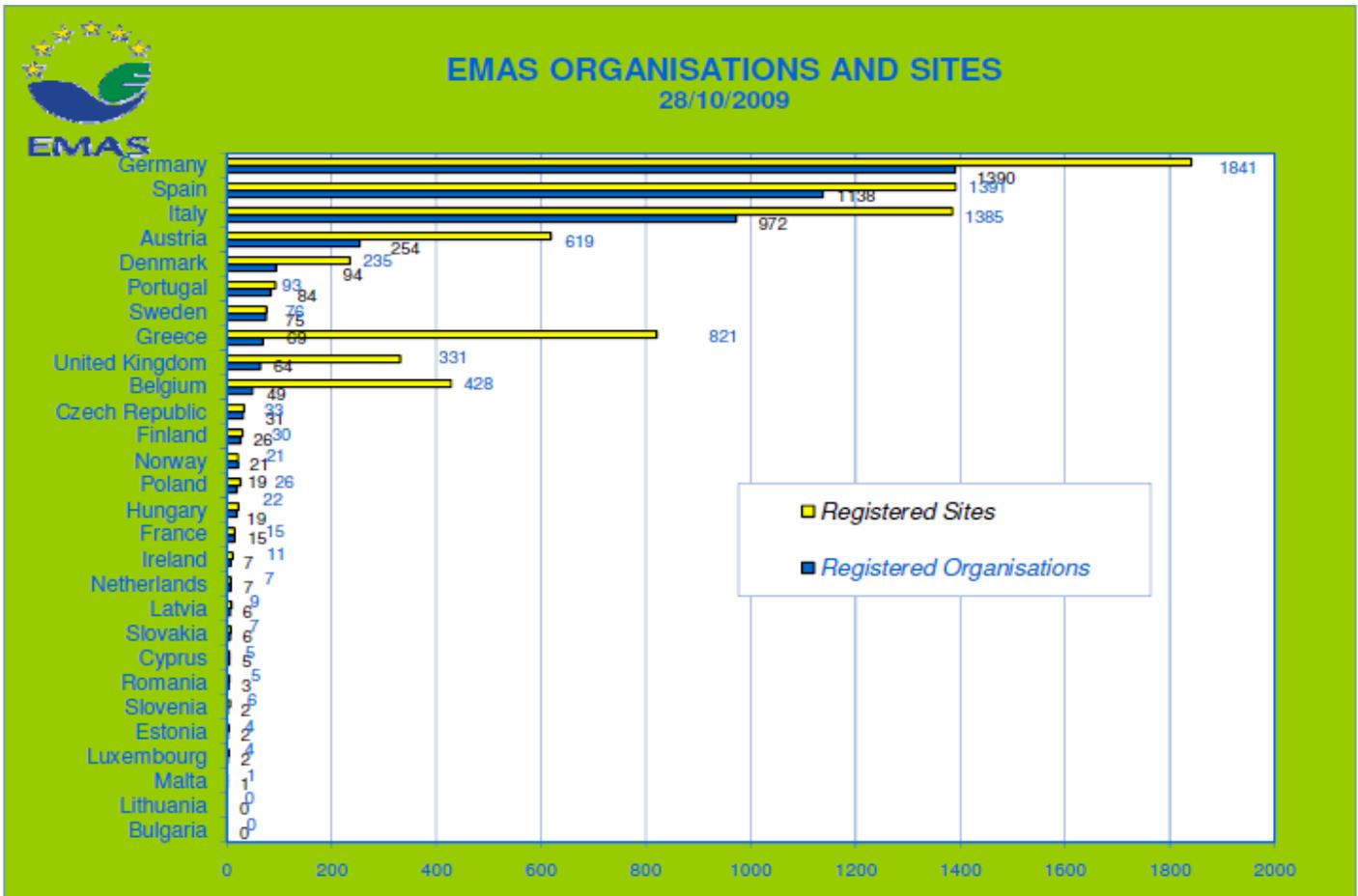
The site is multilingual since it has information in all partner's languages as well as in English. It is user friendly and it provides information both about the project and EMAS in general. The main topics are:

- General information about EMAS ([What `s EMAS?](#))
- Advantages of using it ([How can it help me?](#))
- Its differences from ISO ([What makes it different from ISO14000?](#))
- Steps to implement it ([What are the steps?](#))
- European and national information nodes ([Where can we find more information](#))
- Specific advises for SMEs ([EMAS and SMEs](#))



# Implementation of EMAS

The EMAS-registered companies throughout Europe are already thousands and are increasing rapidly. The figure below shows the implementation of EMAS per European country ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/5\\_5articles\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/5_5articles_en.pdf))



## Success Story

**Hera Tratesa, Spain.** Activities: Final disposal of non dangerous urban and industrial residues.

The implementation of EMAS system has supposed for the company a series of benefits amongst which can be cited the following:

- Major control of fulfillment of legal requirements of the company;
- Economic savings with respect to periodic controls required by the administration;
- Major control on environmental impact and thus decrease of environmental risk for the company;
- Economic benefits with respect to environmental law;
- Major sensibilization of the personnel implicated in environmental manage-

ment;

- Project implementation for installations' improvement of residue storage, product control, storage of chemical substances, etc.
- Tool for improvement and promotion of personnel inside the company;

"The experience has been positive, mainly because the realized efforts from company workers have been collected in a document which materializes the actions taken with regard to environmental behavior and continuous improvement with the environmental declaration. That type of intangible actions adds value to the company image in front of its suppliers, clients, etc."

*Environmental Management System responsible for Hera Tratesa*



Lifelong Learning Programme



APEE



## Project activities

**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.

The partnership consists of experienced organisations in different fields of Environmental Management from Spain, Portugal, Greece, Austria, Slovakia and Finland.

In November of 2009 the partners met in Vienna for the 3rd consortium meeting. The partners after analysing the target group's (SMEs) needs, developed the training modules for the ECO-SME+ e-learning tool. The final scope is to deliver the content of the training modules in order to be useful not only for SMEs' managers but also for:

- Business and environmental associations.
- Public administration organizations related to the environmental field.
- Provider entities on environmental training.

It will be a training that covers the most crucial aspect of the EMAS standard and give the general overview for the enterprises that want to implement it. It will make clear that There are a number of areas where action is being taken by EMAS like: Minimizing the administrative burden on companies, Helping SMEs integrate environmental concerns into their businesses, Supporting regional and national networks etc.

At the same time, partners worked in the dissemination part of the project. They exchanged their experiences of the events they had participated at that point and they planned their activities for the future. There are wide opportunities for the project and the partners have already planned to take part in seminar, conferences, exhibitions and other events.

Throughout the project several seminars will be held in most of the participant countries. The partners discussed on the methodology for searching participants, the steps to be made in order to organize the pilot experience and its content. The next planned partner meeting is in April 2010 in Finland.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



APEE



Programa de aprendizaje permanente  
LEONARDO DA VINCI

## Partnership



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