

EMAS - Newsletter

EMAS website
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>

EMAS in figures

In March 2009 EMAS has reached 4320 registered organisations in a wide range of economic sectors with 6886 registered sites. Due to its general success, the scope of the scheme was widened in 2001 to include public and private service providers as well as public sector organisations.

Registered organisations and sites

Austria	259	505
Belgium	49	428
Bulgaria	4	4
Czech Republic	34	36
Denmark	94	235
Estonia	2	4
Finland	42	49
France	12	12
Germany	1,426	1,873
Greece	62	462
Hungary	18	21
Ireland	7	11
Italy	965	1,355
Latvia	8	13
Lithuania	0	0
Malta	1	1
Luxembourg	2	4
Netherlands	10	16
Norway	23	23
Poland	12	12
Portugal	78	83
Slovak Republic	6	7
Slovenia	2	6
Spain	1,060	1,284
Sweden	75	76
United Kingdom	69	366
TOTAL	4,320	6,886

Leading industrial sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Waste and disposal	417
• Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	260
• Chemicals	234
• Electricity, gas	225
• Manufacture of food products	209

Leading service sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Public administration	387
• Accommodation	237
• Education	159
• Activities of membership organisations	145
• Education	86

News

ClubEMAS - Association of EMAS registered organisations in Catalonia

In 2005 a group of EMAS-registered organisations demonstrated the benefits from the implementation of EMAS and identified the added value that registration offered. After a period of consultation with the interested parties, the association was created on June 6, 2006. The EMAS Club consists of 55 organisations, all registered with the Catalan Competent Body. The creation of such a Club is outstanding in Europe and promotes environmental and economic improvement and opportunities for the companies to work closely together.



The EMAS-registered organisations in Catalonia realised that the Club was a necessary tool to represent them and could help them to have a voice when dealing with the administration and other social and economic stakeholders. With this in mind the new association looks for solutions to common issues encountered by all organisations, such as issues linked to public procurement or the integration of EMAS in sectoral standards.

ClubEMAS is a private, not-for-profit association made up of companies and other organisations from different sectors and of different sizes. The common feature is the desire for environmental improvement, taking the form of participation in EMAS, the scope which includes at least one centre in Catalonia. From its very start, this initiative received the support and collaboration of the Department of Environment and Housing of the Government of Catalonia (the EMAS Competent Body in Catalonia).

The aim is to promote and oversee the continuous improvement of the environmental performance of organisations and of society in general, and the protection of the common interests of the association's organisations concerning their participation in the EMAS system.

More information on ClubEMAS is available here :
http://www.clubemas.cat/index_eng.html

The EMAS newsletter is published by the EMAS Helpdesk on behalf of the European Commission. An electronic copy is available on the Internet at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas> or by subscribing to the mailing list.

For a free subscription, comments or further information send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at: emas@ec.europa.eu or write to the following address:

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Upcoming events

1-4 December 2009

Paris, France
Pollutec Horizons 2009

For more information visit the POLLUTEC website
<http://www.pollutec.com>

19 November 2009

Stockholm Sweden
European EMAS Awards 2009

More information is available at <http://www.emasawards.eu>

14 October 2009

Stuttgart, Germany
"EMAS - trademark for sustainable economic management, continuity and cost savings"

More information is available at <http://www.um.baden-wuerttemberg.de/servlet/is/51847>

22 September 2009

Graz, Austria
EcoEfficiency Workshop at AEVG

Annual workshop for EMAS registered organisations. Programme and contact details will soon be available at <http://www.emas.gv.at/article/articleview/72890/1/16773/>

5- July 2009

Graz, Austria
ISSRM 2009 Vienna

15th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (<http://www.issrm09.info>)

23-26 June 2009

Brussels, Belgium
Green Week 2009 - Climate change - Act and Adapt

Programme and practical information will soon be available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>

23 June 2009

Munich, Germany
Nachhaltigkeit in Einrichtungen der Caritas in Bayern managen

Organised by the Katholische Akademie Bayern. For more information visit <http://www.lvbayern.caritas.de/27355.asp?order=ort&area=clvbay&typ=terminethis>

15-19 June 2009

Sofia, Bulgaria
9th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Geo-Conference & EXPO SGEM 2009

More information is available at <http://www.sgem.org>

11 June 2009

Brussels, Belgium
ECAP workshop on environmental labels and regional initiatives to promote environmental compliance for SMEs

The seminar schedule will be soon available on the ECAP seminars registration website <http://www.rso.it/ecap>

3-4 June 2009

Linz, Austria
Austrian EMAS Conference 2009

More information is available at <http://www.emas.gv.at/article/articleview/72878/1/16773>

12 May 2009

Brussels, Belgium
European EMS-Forum & Environmental Verifier Day
 Organised by VNU (Verband für nachhaltiges Umweltmanagement e.V.): http://www.vnu.ev.de/content_public/p_down/Aufz/2009/090512_EMSF_Programme.pdf

11 May 2009

Vienna, Austria
EcoEfficiency Workshop at Ebs

Annual workshop for EMAS registered organisations. Programme and contact details will soon be available at <http://www.emas.gv.at/article/articleview/72890/1/16773/>

6-14 May 2009

All over Europe
1st European SME Week

For more information visit http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/index_en.htm

Editorial

All over Europe, EMAS clubs and networks are growing and gaining more and more importance for EMAS-registered organisations. These successful initiatives promote and support the cooperation between organisations and local institutions and authorities. They are being developed in order to encourage enterprises to direct their economic activity towards more sustainable development by offering a 'lighter' and improved documentary process. In the revised, third edition of the EMAS Regulation, the cluster approach ("Cluster" means a group of independent organisations, related to each other by geographical proximity or common business activity, jointly implementing the environmental management system) is introduced and has the objective of avoiding unnecessary costs for participants, in particular for small organisations.

This issue of the EMAS Newsletter introduces different approaches by EMAS clubs and networks in Europe for winning more in-depth specialist knowledge and exchanging experiences in order to maintain and further improve company-specific environmental management systems.

The EMAS Team, Environment Directorate General, Unit G2, European Commission.

The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental and business performance

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>

EMAS Clubs and Networks

Report

The EMAS Club project lands in Italy. The experience of two regions compared.

After the Spanish ClubEMAS experience (see last page of this Newsletter), the success of the EMAS Club initiative has continued in another Mediterranean country. In two Italian Regions, an EMAS Club is the outcome of two different approaches.

The first Italian EMAS Club was launched in Bologna in July 2007, promoted by Emilia-Romagna Region with the technical assistance of ERVET - the agency of territorial development in the Region Emilia Romagna - and the support of the Regional Industrial Association (Confindustria Emilia-Romagna).



Emilia Romagna is the Italian region most involved in environmental sustainability and with the highest number of eco-efficient enterprises: 19% of Italian EMAS-registered organisations are in this region. Other EMAS clubs in this region are the Cartesio Network (cooperative approach in local governance and sustainability) and Network Tandem (facilitating discussion between local authorities and the private sector on environmental issues).

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These clubs aimed at promoting the efforts of EMAS registered enterprises and organisations. The initiative has four primary objectives for organisations with EMAS and Ecolabel:

- More visibility;
- Stronger communication;
- More active relationships between the regional system and other stakeholders;
- A competent and authoritative network of organisations in the field of Sustainable Production and Consumption.

The advantage of the EMAS Club in Emilia Romagna is that

the regional enterprises share their involvement with local institutions and authorities and with the Region. By promoting it within the Ministry for Environment and the National Committee for Ecolabel and Ecoaudit, the Region tried to disseminate and support the advantages of the certification of environmental performance and sustainable products.

More information on the Italian initiatives is available here:
 EMAS Club: <http://www.tecnologiepulite.it/html/template.asp?id=30>
 Cartesio Network: <http://www.retecartesio.it>
 Network tandem: <http://www.provincia.bologna.it/emas/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/251611190705>

Case study

EMAS Club Veneto: An example of go-aheadism and self initiative

Cradle of a myriad of small and medium enterprises, famous for its entrepreneurial skills and industriousness and an important engine of the much-celebrated "made in Italy", organisations in Region Veneto are showing their enthusiasm in implementing EMAS. The Veneto Region is the fourth in Italy as regards the number of EMAS-registered organisations (58 of 963 in January 2009). The foundation of the EMAS Club Veneto is a clear example of this dynamism.

The EMAS Club Veneto project was the initiative of Daniele Pernigotti, consultant and university professor, involved in environmental management systems. In response to a questionnaire the EMAS registered organisations indicated their

disappointment with the inadequate visibility and substance of environmental policies promoted in the territory. After an initial meeting, EMAS Club Veneto was founded in November 2007 and currently more than half of the registered organisations take part in it. They meet every 2-3 months in order to develop actions that:

- aim to promote both the image of the organisations involved and the EMAS logo.
- spreading the know-how acquired in creating the Club to support other regions (at the moment Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino Alto Adige and Puglia)
- raise awareness among public authorities and institutions, with the objective that these facilitate and lighten the bureaucratic burden for organisations implementing EMAS.

EMAS Club Veneto tries to align its style to that of the first Italian EMAS Club initiated by Region Emilia Romagna in order to create a critical mass across the entire country.

To summarise: the EMAS Club in Emilia Romagna was initiated by a Region in order to support organisations that voluntarily decided to go for EMAS. The EMAS Club Veneto was started by private consultants and is supported by registered organisations. In both cases the EMAS Clubs in Italy confirm that these initiatives meet the interest of those involved and their influence is steadily expanding.



More information on the initiative in Veneto is available here:
www.clubemasveneto.it
 Email: Mr. Daniele Pernigotti: info@aequilibria.com

Interview

Galvene S.p.A.: why we went for EMAS Club

Galvene S.p.A. belongs to the group Zincol Italia S.p.A., the market leader in Italy in the zinc-coating sector. The company is among the first in Veneto that joined the EMAS Club initiative in the Region. Aware that environmental protection is rather an opportunity than a burden, and that the implementation of a good environmental management system has numerous advantages, it registered for EMAS in April 2007.

The company's Managing Director, Giorgio Montesor, and the Environmental Manager, Giulia Bezzi, are very enthusiastic about the EMAS Club: "The EMAS regulation requires a company to be transparent in its communications with the public. It is absurd that the public does not know of this certification". When Galvene decided to implement EMAS, it wanted to gain more visibility and recognition. What it

gained in the EMAS club was the opportunity to meet other organisations. It encouraged them to lobby among their peers, "to make EMAS a place of thought and more visible to their environmental stakeholders". For the future, Galvene wishes to make EMAS even more promotable - "an added value, a proof of our enterprise's involvement and efforts towards sustainable development".

Best practice

EMAS Network in Austria: "Eco-efficiency: experience exchange"

The "eco-efficiency experience exchange", initiated and promoted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, is intended to support organisations implementing EMAS by promoting the spread of more in-depth, specialist knowledge and encouraging the exchange of practice-oriented approaches in order to maintain and improve a company-specific environmental management system.

To this end, workshops with specific thematic focuses are organised three times a year and take place in EMAS registered organisations. Between 2003 and 2008, more than 150 EMAS organisations and companies actively participated in these workshops.

Main objective of the initiative is to promote open communication and good cooperation between the participating EMAS organisations and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Manage-

ment and Umweltbundesamt (Austrian Environment Agency), as well as experts from the environment sector.

Eco-efficiency workshop in Leoben/Donawitz (Austria) at voestalpine Schienen GmbH



Best practice

LIFE - Environment Project - NEST Networking with EMAS for Sustainable Development



The NEST project (2005 - 2007) sought to introduce EMAS into ten small and under-resourced municipalities and cities across Europe: three in Poland, four in Hungary and three in Greece. Kirklees Metropoli-

tan Council, with a well developed EMAS system in place since 2003, was acting as a benchmark for the other partners. Six municipalities achieved a successful external verification during the project.

The project provided the opportunity to further develop and refine capacity-building materials used to guide municipalities in implementing EMAS. The evolving methodology employed was sufficiently robust to allow municipalities to go successfully through the process and achieve verification and registration. A step by step procedure ensured that all key elements of the EMAS regulation were met. Standard templates were provided for procedures, the environmental statement and also for the most common direct effects, in order to

encourage the use of good practice in standard areas, such as an authority's own transport, energy, waste or purchasing activities, and help authorities choose solutions which are known to have succeeded elsewhere to reduce their environmental impact. Thus, municipalities could concentrate on their major environmental impacts, such as those arising from spatial planning, transport planning or housing policies.

More information on the project is available on the website of the NEST project: <http://www.emasnetwork.org/en/project/info>