



NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the third edition of our project's newsletter. Along year 2019, the six project partners have started the implementation of the **“Towards EMAS Action Plans”** in their regions and countries. In the following pages, you'll find a summary of the main actions contained in the action plans and information about their status of implementation, as well as considerations regarding obstacles, successes and lessons learnt on this phase of the project.

Stakeholders continue to have a key role during the second phase of the project as the implementation of many of the actions depend on them, it is therefore essential to continue working side by side in order to monitor the process of implementation and its results, and also to detect any barrier or problem that could compromise the successful implementation of actions. In this phase, partners adapted their interaction procedures with the stakeholders and meet with specific stakeholders depending on the actions and the planned timeframe.

Policy instruments and the actions included in the action plans of the ENHANCE project are usually linked to other policy instruments and regulations, and conditioned by the specificities of the existing legal framework in each country and region. This has necessarily generated the need to look for the **cooperation of other public administrations**, agencies and public bodies. Different perspectives between colleagues from the public administration have often provided also different views, and even if this can potentially be a barrier for the implementation of an action, this process has certainly enriched the project's learning process.



Environment &
resource
efficiency



0.93 M
ERDF



Jan 2017
Dec 2020



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

State of implementation of the “Towards EMAS Action Plans”

Successful start thanks to the main role of stakeholders

ANDALUSIA



The support of stakeholders in Andalusia is a key aspect to ensure the success on the implementation of the actions referred to in the Towards EMAS Action Plan (Andalusia).

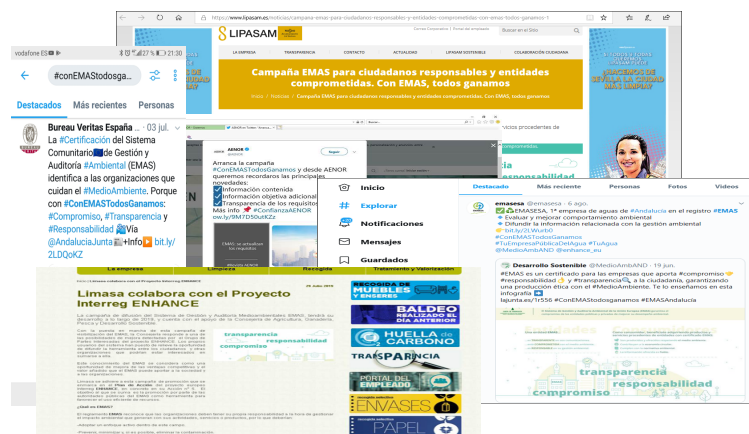
Within Action No 5 related to the development of a promotional campaign on EMAS the Regional Ministry on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Local Development of Andalusia has launched **#ConEMASTodosGanamos** an inspiring campaign to boost EMAS in social media and digital channels.

The campaign does not only highlight EMAS’ three basic pillars: commitment, transparency and responsibility, but it also seeks to encourage efficient use of resources and show EMAS’ role in order to move towards a Circular Economy. Informative and promotional material (videos, infographics, brochures and presentations) to visualise the EMAS and its added value and its opportunities are available on the Ministry's website for everyone.

The multiplying effect of stakeholders contributes to increase the audience of the communication campaign.

The participation of most of the ENHANCE stakeholders of Andalusia (e.g. EMASESA, LIMASA, LIPASAM, AENOR, Bureau Veritas...) is being crucial in order to increase the audience and impact of the campaign through their own digital channels. The dissemination of the campaign from the Spanish Central Ministry to all Spanish regions on the EMAS Spanish forum and from the Helpdesk of the European Commission has also been very useful.

Finally, it is worth noting that recently the “Prospective Study for the launching of an EMAS Club in Andalusia” has been started, according to Action No. 3 of the Towards EMAS Action Plan (Andalusia), for which an equally active and useful participation of the ENHANCE stakeholders of Andalusia is expected.



AUSTRIA



Austria is currently discussing a possible incentive for EMAS registered organisations in relation to European Energy Efficiency Directive.

ENHANCE project in Austria – Let's continue!

In the second year of the ENHANCE project in Austria we, the Environment Agency Austria, have mainly worked on our Action Plan for a better implementation of EMAS. Our Action Plan consists of five key actions: EMAS in Green Public Procurement, Environmental Impact Assessment, Energy Audits, Training of Public Authorities and Environmental Inspections.

In the last six months, the Environment Agency Austria and the Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism have prepared a fact sheet on the **synergies between EMAS and the Energy Audit** which has to be carried out according to Annex VI of the European Energy Efficiency Directive (DIRECTIVE 2012/27/EU). The responsible department of the Ministry and the head of the department have been briefed about the action and provided with the fact sheet. The intention of the fact sheet is to show that EMAS companies already fulfil the requirements of the internal Energy Audit as laid down in the European Energy Efficiency Directive. The discussions about a possible incentive for EMAS registered organisations are ongoing.

Another priority in the last few months has been the preparation of an EMAS training session for civil servants who work for competent authorities. These public authorities are very important EMAS stakeholders. With better informed authorities, we hope to improve the relationship between EMAS companies and public authorities. Therefore, we are planning to organise a training session which focuses on CO₂ neutral administration and provides information about EMAS. Public administrations have their own training academy. With the aim to reach public service employees, the goal is to include EMAS in the training courses of the Federal Academy of Public Administration.



CATALONIA



Special conditions for EMAS registered organizations already included within circular economy funding programs.



“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” (African Proverb)

Definitely, the implementation of our action plan is being a team work in which each stakeholder does its part to achieve common goals, and as the proverb says, we are proceeding together but we hope to get far with our action plan.

We are still working with our colleagues from the Catalan Waste Agency in order to define a potential reduction of Financial Guarantees for waste treatment activities, but together we have been already able to implement special conditions for EMAS registered organizations participating to Circular Economy funding programs. These programs belong and are managed by the same agency and EMAS registered organisations are awarded with extra points in the evaluation process of the candidate projects. It should be noted that this call just aims to promote innovative projects, a key aspect to improve the competitiveness of SMEs. Likewise, EMAS has also been considered in the regulatory base documents regarding the subsidies for projects promoting the selective collection of municipal waste, prevention and preparation for the reuse of municipal waste, and prevention, preparation for the reuse and recycling of industrial waste. We are currently working with our colleagues in order to assess the impact of the action in EMAS registered organizations, particularly SMEs.

In relation to the promotion of EMAS through Green Public Procurement – an action selected also by other project partners – the Guideline has been already prepared and will be approved soon. The main objective of this guideline is to allow the EMAS registered organizations that bid on public contracts to obtain a return from the extra effort they carry out to comply with EMAS. The stakeholders involved in this action have had a vivid debate on how this can be implemented considering the legal and operational framework (at EU, national and regional level), particularly, in relation to the consideration of EMAS as an award criterion. A specific aspect that has been discussed and considered is to include elements of the environmental statement, which is the main differentiating element of EMAS and that provides validated data on the environmental performance and practices of the registered organisation.

The guideline refers to three different aspects of the public procurement process: the technical and professional solvency, the technical specifications, and criteria for awarding the tender. Currently, the guideline is undergoing the last revision phase in order to start its approval process.

We still have a year ahead of intensive and continuous work, we will update you through the ENHACE project website. [Follow us!](#)

CZECH REPUBLIC



*First goal achieved:
reduction of environmental
inspections for EMAS
registered organisations.*

First action accomplished!

Since the beginning of the year 2019, after a deep analysis, 5 regulatory reliefs were chosen to be a part of the "Towards EMAS Action plan". The next step – basically the main aim of the ENHANCE Project - is to implement those reliefs. In this process interaction with the Ministry of the Environment is essential as it is a crucial partner and the decision maker.

Top five reliefs are: Reduction of the environmental inspections for EMAS companies, better support of the EMAS companies in the green public procurement, funding for the reduction of the financial burden in implementing EMAS, funding for supporting SMEs in the implementation of EMAS, and also a training program for the public authorities. MoE has presented those findings in the CENIA Conference in May/19.

In this moment, we celebrate a first success, one of the reliefs was completed, and it is the reduction of the environmental inspections for the EMAS companies. It took a wide discussion with the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, that imply the updating of their internal matrix for evaluation of the companies.

In relation to another action, we faced an unexpected situation: we discovered that there was already a funding program from the Ministry of Industry. Unfortunately, its existence has not been effectively promoted. Dissemination of the funding program has been very low and thus we have space for improvement. CENIA is currently in contact with the competent person in order to obtain more information such as the exact conditions of the program, how the information has been previously disseminated and this will allow us to define what can we do next to disseminate the information.

For the next month, CENIA will focus on developing the training program for the public authorities.



Presentation of the ENHANCE project at CENIA's conference in the May 2019

ESTONIA



Concerning energy audits, in Estonia EMAS registered organisations will not be required to carry out any additional audits.

Progress and achievements of implementing ENHANCE action plan in Estonia

In Estonia, the implementation of Towards EMAS Action Plan is progressing well. One of the planned actions has already been implemented. Namely, EMAS registered organisations in Estonia now automatically meet the energy audit obligation set for large organisations by the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). This means that EMAS registered organisations do not need to carry out any additional audits and only need to provide their environmental statement.

In addition, a study has been initiated to analyse the feasibility and economic cost regarding the simplification of the environmental permit application as well as the reduced reporting and inspection requirement. The study aims to explore whether and to which extent the information and environmental data provided in the EMAS statement is applicable in the current permitting and reporting system. The study includes a questionnaire for companies with environmental permits as well as roundtables with relevant authorities and companies. The questionnaire and roundtables were carried out in autumn 2019. The study will be the basis for finalising the list of measures that will be implemented to improve the policy instrument identified for ENHANCE project in Estonia. The study will also provide input for necessary legal amendments needed to improve the policy instrument.



Photo: Roundtable with stakeholders in October 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia

ITALY



Liguria Region has already formalized EMAS and Green Public Procurement (GPP), in annex 1 to the Regional Council resolution number 74 of February 1, 2019.

Guidelines and training to public officers as keys to spread EMAS adoption

During 2019, SSSA has worked jointly with its main stakeholder Liguria Region for the implementation of the ENHANCE Towards EMAS Action Plan. Interreg ENHANCE project was also mentioned by official documents of the Italian Institution. Liguria Region has already formalized the important contribution added by the research activity carried out on EMAS registration and, in particular, the connection between this and the theme of Green Public Procurement (GPP), in annex 1 to the Regional Council resolution number 74 of February 1, 2019.

Then, the analysis carried out during the second semester of 2018 and the results of that analysis formalized in a report addressed to Liguria Region officers, indicated a strong need for training about Environmental Certification-EC. SSSA researchers and Liguria Region officers decided to develop guidelines especially made for little entities, as Municipalities, on the topic of EC, both process certification (as EMAS and ISO 14001) and product certification (i.e. EU Ecolabel). The guidelines have been finished at the end of September and they will be form of the future plan for training of Ligurian station for purchasing (Actions 3 and 4 of Towards EMAS Action Plan). In the next months the activity will follow based on the implementation of the action plan foreseen.

In addition, ENHANCE will be presented during the Ecomondo fair that will take place on the first week of November in Rimini, with a dedicated stand jointly with other SSSA European project related to Circular Economy.



CERTIFICAZIONI AMBIENTALI E BANDI PUBBLICI

LINEE GUIDA

Guidelines on how to consider environmental certifications within public tenders

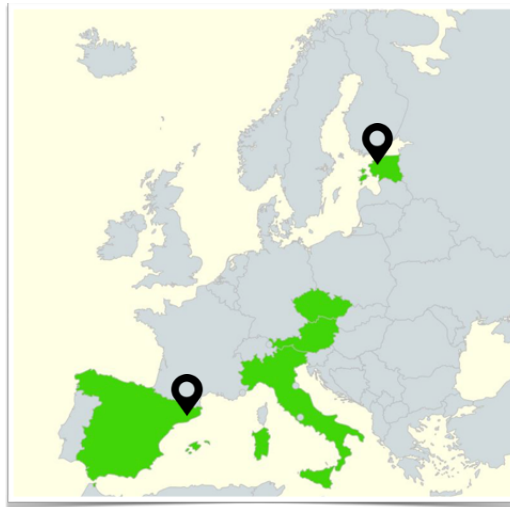


Stakeholders' meeting in Italy

Project events carried out at the end of 2018 and 2019

Do you want to learn more about EMAS & the ENHANCE project?

Click here to reach the [website](#)



1 Dissemination event in Barcelona (November 2018)

1 Project Meeting in Tallinn (Sept. 2019)



Dissemination event in Barcelona



Project meeting in Tallinn

Planned Events for 2020

Brussels: High Level Event (final conference), May 12th.

Project Partners

