

EMAS - Newsletter

The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental
and business performance

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



Congratulations to the European EMAS Awards winners 2010

Editorial



Mr. Janez Potočnik
Commissioner for Environment

Dear EMAS community,

2010 was a successful and eventful year for EMAS! In January the latest revision of the scheme, EMAS III, came into force. EMAS III significantly improves the applicability and credibility of the scheme and strengthens its visibility and outreach. Over the course of the year the European Commission and Member States supported an ever-increasing number of organisations to either make the transition from EMAS II to EMAS III or to register to the scheme for the first time and thus reap the benefits of the premium benchmark for environmental management. Finally, in November both an EMAS Conference and EMAS Awards took place back-to-back in Brussels. This last newsletter for 2010 will recap those two November events.

Enjoy the reading!

The EMAS Team, European Commission, Environment Directorate General, Unit C1, Environment & Industry

In the Spotlight

Commission announces 2010 EMAS Awards winners

Six organisations representing different categories won the 2010 EMAS Awards for excellence in environmental management. It is the most prestigious environmental management award acknowledging organisations' achievement. This year's EMAS Award Ceremony was hosted in one of the most renowned buildings in Brussels, the Belgian Comic Strip Center. The EMAS Awards 2010 recognised outstanding achievements in increasing resource efficiency since 2000. The Jury, composed of international experts in the field of environmental management and resource efficiency, took into account achievements in the reduction of water and energy consumption, waste generation and carbon emissions. In his welcome note, the Director-General of DG Environment,



Karl Falkenberg, congratulated the winners and nominees and praised their excellent work on environmental protection. He stressed the importance of EMAS in contributing to sustainable production patterns.

A record 42 organisations from 15 European countries were nominated. These - and all other - EMAS registered organisations understand that by decreasing the amount of energy or water used, they not only improve their environment performance but also gain a competitive advantage. The winners of all six categories are presented to you in this newsletter.

Winner

Micro-organisations: Soc. Coop. Dog Park a r.l (Italy)

Soc. Coop. Dog Park a r.l from Naples, Italy is a cooperative that provides shelter, day-to-day care and medical assistance for stray and lost dogs. The organisation currently employs 9 people and is EMAS registered since 2007. Its key environmental objectives include the optimisation of its water use and the improvement of recycling and waste management procedures. The organisation also aims to increase the share of renewables used for electricity production.

Soc. Coop. Dog Park a r.l has launched various activities in order to excel in increasing resource efficiency. It reduced its water consumption in daily activities such as grooming and cleaning kennels by 30% between 2007 and 2008, and during that time also significantly decreased waste generation (87% reduction for non-hazardous waste, 42% reduction for hazardous waste). Shredded office paper is also re-used as absorption material in kennels. Furthermore, the organisation uses photovoltaic (PV) technology to convert sunlight into electricity. A 6 KW PV system is already installed and a 50 KW PV system will be operational shortly.

The communication of its efforts and the importance of environmental protection are key elements of the organisation's approach to environmental management. Information on environmental management is disseminated both internally to employees and externally to visitors of the kennel.

Further information on the company is available at: <http://www.caniledogpark.com/>



Winner

Small Organisations: Ecoprint AS (Estonia)

Ecoprint AS, a printing company based in Tartu, Estonia that currently employs 34 people, is EMAS registered since 2010. The company's mission is to develop 'Green Print', the first environmentally printing service on the Estonian market. In order to achieve this, the company has significantly increased its resource efficiency in recent years.

A main achievement is the use of rainwater in the printing house damping system. This activity is estimated to reduce water consumption by as much as 60% per year. Additionally, Ecoprint AS was able to reduce its office paper use by 44% in 2009 (compared to 2008), and 50% of the office paper it purchased was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In 2009, Ecoprint managed to reduce the amount of general waste by 29% compared to 2008, while the turnovers of those two years

were similar. Through the use of wind turbines and solar panels, the company was also able to reduce its natural gas consumption by 25% in 2009 compared to 2008.

The company stated:

'We are well aware that resource efficiency has a positive impact on environmental protection and our company's financial bottom line. Both aspects are very important for our company, which deeply cares about the environment and about offering quality products with reasonable prices.'

Further information on the company is available at: <http://www.ecoprint.ee/?id=2204>



Winner

Medium-sized organisations: Oxfam-Solidarité (Belgium)



Oxfam-Solidarité, EMAS registered since 2010, is an organisation that seeks to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice in over 25 countries. The company employs around 330 people in Belgium and the countries in which it operates. A responsible use of natural resources is a core objective of Oxfam-Solidarité.

Re-use and recycling are important elements of the organisation's environmental management approach. The organisation extends the life of old computers through a re-use and recycling service. More than 40% of the computers they collect are repaired and sold in second hand shops. Those that cannot be repaired are dismantled, with some parts reused and the rest sent for recycling. Additionally, Oxfam-Solidarité has seen a 20% reduction in paper use for printing and a

10% cut in CO₂ emissions from aviation transport due to train option, better planning and routing of missions between 2007 and 2009. The organisation also reduced its energy consumption by 10% between 2007 and 2009.

Oxfam-Solidarité also incorporates considerations on increasing resource efficiency into its educational projects and campaigns. Information on its environmental approach based on EMAS is communicated through the organisation's Belgian office, as well as to volunteers, clients and partners in the towns and countries where the organisation operates.

Brigitte Gloire, 'sustainable development and climate change' officer at Oxfam-Solidarité, emphasised that the award is a strong encouragement for her organisation to continue its efforts in environmental management and for a more equitable use of resources in both the 'North' and 'South'.

Further information on the company is available at: <http://www.oxfamsol.be/>



Winner

Large organisations: Mahou S.A. (Spain)

Mahou, S.A. is a Spanish brewing company employing around 600 people. The company's motto is: 'Grow larger without growing in environmental impact.' EMAS registered since 2006, Mahou, S.A. is committed to the conservation of natural resources and improved environmental management methods, both for its waste products and all other environmental aspects involved in its activities.

Mahou, S.A has continually improved its environmental performance and increased its resource efficiency over the last decade. The company reduced its landfill waste disposal by over 90% between 2000 and 2009 through better awareness of waste segregation. It also reduced its CO₂ emissions by more than 45% between 2000 and 2009 by reducing

heat needs and increasing the use of biogas as an alternative source of fuel. Between 2000 and 2009, total energy consumption was reduced by 34%.

The company also considers environmental protection in its supply chain. For example, agreements have been made with suppliers of chemicals products obliging the use of recyclable packaging.

The company stated:

'Achieving recognition of this nature is a great honour for us and it reaffirms our solid commitment to working with the utmost respect for our surroundings. This award acknowledges our investment drive which has allowed us to implement big technological

improvements in facilities at our Alovera factory (Castilla-La Mancha). These changes have resulted in significant improvements in our environmental indicators, particularly in terms of a more efficient use of our resources. We shall continue to work along the same lines in the future.'

Further information on the company is available at: <http://www.mahou-sanmiguel.com/>



Winner

Public administrations (small organisations): Sandwell Homes (United Kingdom)

Sandwell Homes, EMAS registered since 2004, is a social housing organisation based in West Bromwich in the West Midlands, United Kingdom. The organisation provides housing management, repairs and maintenance services to around 29,000 council-owned properties, and directly employs around 1,200 people. Sandwell Homes acknowledges its responsibilities by preventing and reducing the organisation's negative impact on the environment. Sandwell Homes particularly takes into account carbon emissions from tenants' energy use and the generation of waste stemming from the use of natural resources such as paper, cardboard and toner cartridges.

With the objective of increasing its resource efficiency, Sandwell Homes uses solar panels and photovoltaic cells to generate some of its own energy. The organisation also reduces energy consumption and the use of raw materials in the homes it manages. An important pillar of its approach towards environmental management is the inclusion of stakeholders. In addition to providing environmental workshops to all employees and board members, Sandwell Homes educates its supply chain in order to improve the organisation's carbon footprint. For example, tenant engagement is encouraged through an eco-champion project and

examples of good practice are shared through a 'green' website.

Len Gibbs, Chair of the Sandwell Homes Board emphasised that 'to be recognised on the European stage really demonstrates Sandwell Homes' commitment to the environment'.

Further information on the company is available at: <http://www.sandwellhomes.org.uk/>



Winner

Public administrations (small organisations): Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde (Germany)

The University of Applied Sciences in Eberswalde, EMAS registered since 2010,



is dedicated to the sustainable development of rural areas. The University currently employs 250 people at three locations with around 1,900 students. Significant environmental aspects considered include water and energy consumption and waste production.

Procurement plays a central role for improving the University's environmental performance.

The University was praised for its use of green IT – choosing computers and servers on the basis of their energy consumption and their ability to be dismantled and recycled. Notable actions also include the use of a wood pellet heating system, as well as the use of green electricity and solar panels.

Students' involvement is a vital element in the organisation's approach to environmental management, as they are not only educated on sustainability issues but also actively contribute to the implementation of the

scheme. By making innovative suggestions they help improve the environmental management system and thus the university's environmental performance.

Kerstin Kräusche, environmental manager at the University, emphasised that her organisation will remain engaged in environmental management and seek to continuously improve its environmental performance.

Further information on the company is available at: <http://www.hnee.de/en>

EMAS Conference Main conclusions

The EMAS Awards were not the only EMAS event taking place on 25 November. Prior to the Awards ceremony, the International EMAS Conference: 'Towards a Resource Efficient Economy', took place in the Paul-Henri Spaak building of the European Parliament in Brussels. The event was jointly organised by the European Commission - DG Environment, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Be-Smarter project.

There was a broad agreement among the high-profile speakers and the 250 participants who attended the four parallel sessions and the side event that EMAS is perfectly equipped to improve registered organisations' environmental and financial performance and also to promote the wider goal of sustainable production.

This was particularly evident with regard to resource efficiency. Case studies identified the business case for EMAS in that the scheme supported organisations in significantly increasing their resource and energy efficiency. All types of organisations – from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to multinational corporations and public bodies – can reap these benefits.

Six environmental core indicators, introduced with the latest revision of the scheme, EMAS III, play an important role in supporting



organisations in minimising the risks and maximising the opportunities associated with environmental challenges such as resource efficiency or reducing CO₂ emissions. In this context, the sectoral reference documents currently prepared by the European Commission will provide valuable support to organisations, as they include best practice techniques, indicators, benchmarks and supporting data.

The Conference also showed that EMAS adds value to all types of organisations all over the world. The EMAS Easy methodology and the cluster approaches have proven to be excellent ways for small and micro-businesses to

achieve EMAS registration within a short and manageable time frame. Additionally, EMAS Global will widen the scope of the scheme by opening it to non-EU organisations and EU organisations operating in third countries.

Finally, the side event on biodiversity illustrated that biodiversity issues can be incorporated into the management system of EMAS registered (public) organisations and included in Green Public Procurement issues.

Further information on the EMAS Conference including all presentations (as PDFs) is available on the EMAS website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm



EMAS Conference

Short review of sessions 1 and 2 plus side event

The first session of the Conference shared knowledge on innovative approaches for EMAS coaching and capacity building tailored to SMEs needs. The results of five years of EMAS Easy capacity building were presented. More than 200 consultants have been trained to EMAS Easy all over Europe during the last five years. Consultants in clusters of 3-5 organisations typically facilitate EMAS Easy. It was emphasised that cluster approaches lower the costs for participating organisations, facilitate the exchange of experiences and promote the sharing of good implementation practices.

In the second session, EMAS and its contribution to increasing resource and energy efficiency were highlighted from different perspectives. Resource efficiency is

a key part of the 'Europe 2020' strategy. Additionally, the links between EMAS and the energy management standard EN 16001 were analysed. It was concluded that EMAS and EN 16001 are largely compatible. In case studies, speakers shared practical information on how EMAS has helped their organisation to increase resource and energy efficiency.

The side event on biodiversity indicators and EMAS identified how biodiversity considerations can be integrated into practical management approaches for organisations. The speakers presented different types of

biodiversity indicators applicable for public organisations as well as indicators for economic sectors and explained how they can be included in corporate EMS.



EMAS Conference

Short review of sessions 3 and 4

The third session highlighted the added value of EMAS registration for companies falling under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive. In addition, the use of

indicators to measure organisations' environmental performance and set targets for improvement was demonstrated. Several speakers shared their experiences with regard

to the six environmental core indicators and analysed their applicability. Furthermore, the key elements of the pilot sectoral reference documents for the sectors 'Retail Trade', 'Construction', 'Tourism' and 'Public Administration' were presented. The speakers emphasised that the sectoral reference documents' focus on environmental performance indicators and benchmarks of excellence is useful for supporting organisations' use of environmental indicators.

The fourth session entirely focussed on the use of EMAS by organisations with sites outside the EU. Additionally, environmental management approaches from outside the EU and their links to EMAS were presented. The importance of EMAS Global was stressed as particularly interesting for multinational companies. The European Commission is preparing guidelines to support Member States, verifiers and organisations to start using this valuable new element of EMAS. Furthermore, a company experience on the issue of the single corporate registration was presented. Single corporate registration lowers the administrative and financial burden for organisations with multiple sites in different EU Member States or in EU Member States and third countries.





EMAS in figures

In December 2010, the number of EMAS registered organisations has grown by 2,26% compared to December 2009 and the proportion of SMEs in the scheme has reached 76,73%.

+2,26%
EMAS
Organisations

76,73%
SMEs

Registered organisations and sites

Austria	262	642
Belgium	62	447
Bulgaria	0	0
Cyprus	5	5
Czech Republic	25	50
Denmark	91	248
Estonia	3	5
Finland	18	19
France	34	34
Germany	1,402	1,906
Greece	67	819
Hungary	20	23
Ireland	8	16
Italy	1,035	1,460
Latvia	5	7
Lithuania	0	0
Luxembourg	1	2
Malta	1	1
Netherlands	6	6
Norway	21	21
Poland	22	32
Portugal	77	85
Romania	4	6
Slovakia	5	6
Slovenia	3	7
Spain	1,228	1,542
Sweden	75	76
United Kingdom	62	329
Total	4,542	7,794

Leading industrial sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Waste and disposal	429
• Electricity, gas	250
• Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	237
• Chemicals	221
• Manufacture of food products	193

Leading service sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Public administration	449
• Accommodation	242
• Activities of membership organisations	198
• Education	185
• Architectural and engineering activities	124

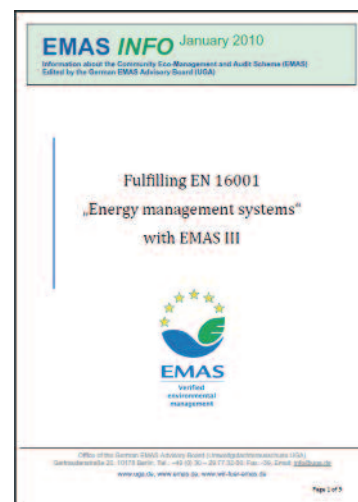
News

EMAS and EN 16001

EMAS is a valuable instrument for organisations to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut costs. It includes various provisions on energy and is therefore already largely compatible with the energy management standard EN 16001, which was published in 2009 by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

Only a few additional steps related to energy efficiency and energy consumption terminology and structural adaptations are necessary for EMAS registered organisations to meet the requirements of EN 16001. For example, they must make a commitment to energy efficiency needs in their environmental policy. Also, when identifying significant environmental impacts, an EMAS registered organisation must identify all persons working for and on behalf of the organisation whose actions may lead to significant changes in energy consumption in order to meet the requirements of EN 16001.

The Office of the German EMAS Advisory Board (UGA) has recently published a brochure including a table that sets out the requirements of EN 16001 and highlights the equivalent requirements in the EMAS Regulation. The table also indicates where additional information is required to comply with EN 16001. The brochure is available at: http://www.emas.de/fileadmin/user_upload/06_service/PDF-Dateien/EN_16001_and_EMAS_January_2010.pdf



News

Be-Smarter national dissemination conferences

The two-year Be-Smarter project was concluded successfully in 2010. The project provided innovative vocational training to more than 100 consultants and supported the implementation of EMAS and/or ISO 14001 in around 140 SMEs.

National dissemination conferences have been held over the last three months in Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany and Hungary. At these conferences 30 consultants received their qualification diploma. The consultants also presented the results of their coaching. Supported by their tutors, most were able to implement EMAS in SMEs in less than eight consultancy days. The coaching has helped to increase the uptake of EMAS and ISO 14001. 25 organisations have already received EMAS registration or ISO 14001 certification, and others are on their way. For example, in Hungary the consultants' coaching has helped to increase the number of EMAS registered organisations by 40%.



EMAS Competent Bodies and representatives of business support organisations spoke at the national conferences. Discussions focussed on fostering the uptake of EMAS by SMEs through the development of accessible and attractive incentives, delivering effective capacity building, supporting the harmonisation of environmental reporting and developing linkages with national and regional labels.

Business support organisations or individuals willing to attend capacity building programmes or organise EMAS Easy coaching sessions should contact info@be-smarter.eu or visit the website www.be-smarter.eu

The EMAS newsletter is published by the EMAS Helpdesk on behalf of the European Commission. For a free subscription, or to download electronic copies of any issue, you can visit the EMAS website at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>.

For comments or further information, please send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at: emas@biois.com or write to the following address:

EMAS Helpdesk
c/o BIO Intelligence Service – 20-22 Villa Deshayes – 75014 Paris – France
Telephone: +33 1 53 90 11 75