

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 2011 winners!

In the spotlight

Commission announces EMAS Awards 2011 winners

What a great celebration! 36 nominees from 15 countries competed in six categories for one of the prestigious European EMAS Awards, which praise superior performance in environmental management. All nominees showed excellence in involving their stakeholders and in achieving their environmental goals.

This year's winners were selected by a jury composed of international experts in the field of environmental management and stakeholder involvement. The six winners were announced in the ancient Wieliczka Salt Mine, one of Cracow's most beautiful and impressive sights.

In his welcome address Jazek Potocnik, the Commissioner for the Environment, congratulated the winners and nominees. He praised their excellent work on involving and inspiring internal and external stakeholders in order to increase their resource efficiency and improve their environmental performance. He stressed the importance of EMAS



EMAS Awards Trophy
(© Floriana M. Ohldag)

in contributing to sustainable production patterns.

All of this year's EMAS Award winners and nominees have established fascinating ways of involving stakeholders, including by appointing employees as "EMAS ambassadors" to communicate with the local community, working together with experienced suppliers on pragmatic ways to reduce resource consumption or offering environmental education programmes for school children.

This year's nominees and winners were also announced on Facebook and Twitter for the first time. This announcement marked the starting point for comprehensive social media activities around EMAS.

Please join us on Facebook (<http://on.fb.me/n6qv0w>) and Twitter (<http://bit.ly/nzwVly>) to inform yourself, connect, interact and share your thoughts with us and others on EMAS and sustainable production and consumption.



Mr. Jazek Potocnik
Commissioner for Environment

Editorial

Dear EMAS Community,

2011 was another successful year for EMAS! The European Commission, in cooperation with Member States, launched the new EMAS Register. The online database lists all EMAS registered organisations and sites, and strengthens the scheme's reputation as the most credible and transparent environmental management instrument worldwide. We also created accounts on Facebook and Twitter focusing on EMAS and other sustainable production and consumption instruments. There you can find out more about EMAS and discuss information and ideas on EMAS and resource efficiency with us and others. Last but certainly not least, this November we praised the excellent performance of EMAS registered organisations in stakeholder involvement at the EMAS Awards in Cracow, Poland. This last newsletter for 2011 will recap the EMAS Awards ceremony.

Enjoy the reading!

Jazek Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment

The EMAS Team, European Commission, Environment Directorate General – Unit C1 – Sustainable Production and Consumption

Micro-organisations: Winner Belvas (Belgium)

Belvas is a manufacturer of exquisite chocolate with a strong belief in fair trade and sustainable agriculture. The company is EMAS registered since 2011 and currently employs eight people. The entire Belvas team set up a completely new waste management process, including the separation of organic waste and its use in anaerobic digestion plants. The company also places a strong focus on involving suppliers in its environmental management. All cardboards used in packaging are FSC certified. Input from experienced suppliers is used to improve resource efficiency in the production process, including, for example, the development of a unique energy retrieval system used to melt

chocolate. In cooperation with regional schools, Belvas also organised site visits for students to showcase examples of practical environmental protection in an "ecological factory". Factory visits and "think tank" sessions with



representatives of a Walloon political party took place to discuss the improvement of existing environmental norms and ways to promote sustainable consumption.

"We are very proud to win the EMAS Award", said Thierry Noesen, Belvas's General Manager. "That means that a small company can make ecological innovations. It is good to know that the first ecological chocolate factory is from Belgium! This Award rewards also the daily efforts of the entire team. It is very motivating for us."

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

Small Organisations: Winner Kneissler Brüniertechnik (Germany)

EMAS registered since 1997, Kneissler Brüniertechnik was one of the EMAS "early birds". The small private organisation with 12 employees offers services in the field of chemical surface treatment. The company does excellent work to minimise its environmental impact, including applying the most innovative technologies with regard to waste water, exhaust air and other aspects and thereby going beyond legal requirements by far.

The family business highly values sustainable human development and therefore assigns importance to knowledge transfer among employees, durable supplier relationships and



close scientific cooperation with schools and universities. Weekly employee meetings and a suggestion mailbox ensure an influx of ideas for improvements, and employees with excellent environmental improvement suggestions are rewarded at the end of each year. Suggestions have led for example to the decision to purchase electricity only from renewable sources, resulting in CO₂ emission reductions by 20%, and waste

management activities leading to reductions by 90%. Kneissler's contractors are also exclusively EMAS registered or ISO 14001 certified companies. Kneissler highly values transparency and engages in the local community by providing information on their operational activities and sponsoring regional events.

"Winning the EMAS Award 2011 was a great moment for us. It motivates us to further commit ourselves to EMAS and the environment", said Adolf Stecher, Kneissler's Managing Director.

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

Medium-sized Organisations: Winner ebswien hauptkläranlage (Austria)



This Viennese wastewater treatment plant has a thorough understanding of how to involve internal and external stakeholders. On the initiative of laboratory staff, electric bicycles have been purchased for use at the plant. The distance travelled emission-free on-site with these bikes is equivalent to the distance between Vienna

and Tromsø in the far north of Norway (more than 3,300 kilometres). Employees are also "ambassadors" of the plant when they provide information to the public in plant tours and "open house" days. ebwien hauptkläranlage places a special emphasis on environmental education for children. In a programme featuring Tim & Trixi Tropf, two water drops explain the water cycle and the need for wastewater purification in a playful manner. Furthermore, the plant selects suppliers based on their environmental commitment. For example, the plant asked its supplier to deliver material by rail instead of road transport. This saved a total of 350 truck trips

annually, the equivalent of approx. 135 tonnes CO₂ emitted per year.

"It's a great honour and recognition for our efforts and our achievements in our environmental management system", said Miklos Papp, Head of the ebwien Technical Department, who received the Award at the ceremony in Cracow. He emphasised that the prize will motivate employees and management to further pursue their environmental protection efforts.

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



Public Administrations (large organisation): Winner Municipality of Ravenna (Italy)

The Municipality of Ravenna has established excellent participatory structures to actively involve its employees and external stakeholders. A network of about 100 EMAS "champions" within the Ravenna Municipality shares information to improve environmental performance in their buildings. Green procurement, focusing on the purchasing of recycled paper, school furniture made of certified materials and other items, is a crucial element in the organisation's environmental policy. Participatory planning of projects is another key element of the municipality's environmental commitment.



Comune di Ravenna

As a result of strong community involvement, for example, daily water consumption per inhabitants was reduced by 6% between 2008 and 2010 in one district. In collaboration with the company Hera Ravenna, the municipality has also carried out waste

collection projects involving around 13,000 students of all levels and their families. The number of families who bring their waste to ecological stations has doubled since the launch of the project. Additionally, the "Agenda 21" website allows stakeholders and the public to view urban development projects. Through Agenda 21 processes, various stakeholders are continually informed and can participate by making recommendations and proposals on development projects.

"We are very happy and proud to achieve this Award", said Ravenna's Assessor for the Environment, Guido Guerrieri. "The involvement of employees is a dynamic and articulated process at our organisation." The Municipality of Ravenna, Italy, has been EMAS registered since 2009 and currently has 1,243 employees. Ravenna's 159,000 inhabitants benefit from the ecological orientation of their city council.

Further information on the public administration is available at: <http://www.comune.ra.it/>

Public Administrations (small organisation): Winner Fritz-Erler-Schule Pforzheim (Germany)



Eurobank EFG

"It is a great success to win the EMAS Award 2011 after more than ten years of students' and teachers' work", said Jochen Lutz, teacher and environmental manager at the Fritz-Erler-Schule Pforzheim. He pointed out that EMAS is a platform for the exchange of ideas.

The German high school with almost 2,000 students is EMAS registered since 2000. It has integrated environmental management into its core teaching activities in an excellent manner. The basis of its environmental work is the "Environmental Team", which develops environmental guidelines. An environmental

class has also been devoted entirely to energy management and energy efficiency topics for several years. Teachers, students and suppliers such as the school's bakery and facility management service also work together to improve the school's environmental performance. As a result, the school reduced its CO₂ emissions by 35% between 1998 and 2009. Furthermore, surveys among stakeholders such as neighbours and parents are carried out on a regular basis to help increase satisfaction levels. Fritz-Erler-Schule cooperates closely with the city of Pforzheim on joint environmental projects. Additionally, a pilot project for energy efficiency has been initiated together with a company and the city of Pforzheim. Environmental management activities are communicated via a website to all stakeholders.

Further information on the school is available at: <http://www.fes.pf.bw.schule.de/>

Large Organisations: Winner EFG Eurobank (Greece)



This financial institution's awareness raising campaigns influence employees' environmental behaviour not only during working hours, but also during their leisure time. Within Eurobank EFG's multi-site organisation, Environmental Officers and Deputy Environmental Officers have been appointed in every branch and in key business units. Ambitious recycling programmes for all major hazardous and non hazardous waste streams have also been launched. In addition, Eurobank's clients receive comprehensive and integrated support on green initiatives such as solar panels on roofs and energy efficiency loans. The bank is fully aware of the fact that its main indirect environmental aspects are clearly linked to its investment and lending activities. As a member of the Global Steering Committee, and Chair of the European Task Force of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, Eurobank EFG is a key contributor to the integration of sustainable principles in banking practices. Furthermore, Eurobank EFG bank has introduced a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) visa card.

Harry Papageorgiou, Head of the Group Environment & Quality Division of Eurobank EFG, accepted the Award in Cracow. "Eurobank EFG is committed to environmental management. This precious trophy shows to our management, to our employees, to our people, that this is something good to do." He emphasised that the success of an environmental management system in large organisations with many sites depends in particular on stakeholder involvement and employee participation.

Further information on the company and its corporate responsibility is available at: <http://www.eurobank.gr/online/home/genericnew.aspx?code=EKEFrontidaGiaToPeribalon&mid=858&lang=en>



EMAS website

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

EMAS in figures*

In December 2011, the number of EMAS registered organisations has grown by 5.25% compared with June 2011 and the proportion of SMEs in the scheme had reached 81.96%.

+5.25%
EMAS
Organisations

81.96%
SMEs

Registered organisations and sites

Austria.....	262	627
Belgium.....	44	423
Bulgaria.....	3	3
Cyprus.....	5	5
Czech Republic.....	24	68
Denmark.....	71	454
Estonia.....	3	5
Finland.....	9	22
France.....	21	21
Germany.....	1349	1881
Greece.....	53	804
Hungary.....	20	23
Ireland.....	6	14
Italy.....	1177	1712
Latvia.....	5	7
Lithuania.....	10	10
Luxembourg.....	2	4
Malta.....	1	1
Netherlands.....	4	4
Norway.....	20	20
Poland.....	26	33
Portugal.....	68	103
Romania.....	4	6
Slovak Republic.....	5	5
Slovenia.....	3	7
Spain.....	1236	1546
Sweden.....	76	134
United Kingdom.....	59	289
Total	4,566	8,278

* Data extracted 11th Jan. 2011

News

First edition of the EMAS Club Veneto Awards



The European EMAS Awards were not the only prizes handed out to EMAS registered organisations this autumn. On 22 October 2011, the first edition of the EMAS Club Veneto Awards was presented in a festive atmosphere. The awards ceremony took place in the Villa Emo spinning mill close to the northern Italian town of Treviso.

The awards initiative resulted from the commitment of all member organisations of the EMAS Club Veneto, an association of EMAS registered organisations in the Veneto region. EMAS registered organisations from the Veneto region can apply for this regional prize in three categories. Nine organisations submitted applications for this year's award. The competition was established to increase the number of EMAS registrations in the region, showcase good practices and facilitate dialogue between key EMAS stakeholders on the regional level.

The winner in the category *Best Environmental Objective* was ENEL Fusina, a power plant awarded for its strategic realignment toward more environmental friendly ways of providing energy. The award for *Best Use of Environmental Statement for Communication Purposes* was presented to Credito Cooperativo Trevigiano, a bank that attaches particular importance to sustainable investments. Finally, the award in the third category of *Promotion of Knowledge of EMAS at Local Level* was handed to the Polo turistico di Bibione, San Michele al Tagliamento's department in charge of tourism affairs. A jury of eight national environmental experts representing different important stakeholders, such as public authorities or business associations, chose the winners.

The EMAS Club Veneto has been operating officially since 2009, yet informal meetings began in 2007. The club's objective is the establishment of a "green" interest group at the local, national and EU level in order to promote EMAS. Growing interest is also visible in other areas of Italy, where regional EMAS clubs are forming: Club EMAS Lazio was founded on 3 December 2011, and the foundation of EMAS Clubs in Puglia and Friuli Venezia Giulia are expected for next year.

Further information on the EMAS Club Veneto (in Italian) is available at: <http://www.clubemasveneto.it/>

Further information on the Awards of the EMAS Club Veneto (in Italian) is available under: <http://www.clubemasveneto.it/interno.asp?funz=Premio%20Club%20Emas&pg=premioclubemas>

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

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Upcoming events

18 - 19 January 2012
Nantes, France

Ecorismo Nantes - 2012

An environmental and sustainable development forum for the hotel industry, catering, camping, spa, wellness and tourism. <http://www.ecorismo.com/>

20 - 29 January
Berlin, Germany

International Green Week Berlin

The event is the world's biggest fair for food, agriculture and horticulture. It will take place for the 77th time in 2012. Producers from all over the world use the International Green Week to test-market food and luxury items and establish a brand image. <http://www.gruenwoche.de/en/>

8 February

Bonn, Germany

Kick-off meeting of the EMAS Club Europe

The German Association of Environmental Professionals (VNU) has founded the EMAS Club Europe as a communication platform for all European EMAS registered organisations. Are you interested in joining the EMAS Club Europe and/or the kick-off meeting? Further information is available here: <http://www.vnu-ev.de>

9 February, 2012

London, United Kingdom

Action Sustainability Annual Conference

Annual conference on supply chain sustainability. <http://www.sustainableprocurementconference.com/>

29 February - 2 March

Valencia, Spain

11th Annual ECOFIRA: International Trade Fair for Environmental Solutions

Seeks to promote and recognize innovation in technologies, products and services that promote business competitiveness. <http://ecofira.feriavalencia.com/>