EMAS IMPLEMENTATION Project Information Form

Full title

Co-operation of Local Authorities and Companies for the EMAS Implementation

Area of co-operation
(3) Protecting and restoring the environment with a view to sustainable development: improving pollution control, managing and/or recycling solid waste and waste water

Project start date: 15/12/1999  Project end date: 15/12/2002

Total budget (ERDF + Phare + own contributions): 607.000€

Project website: http://www.digicon.gr/ecos-emas

Project Objectives:

- To strengthen partnerships between the public and the private sector (local authorities and companies), by developing common goals for moving towards a more sustainable local environment
- To raise awareness of local authorities in other Central European countries about the opportunities for improving environmental performance by the introduction of EMAS through the broad dissemination of project results
- To improve the performance and organisation of local authorities and enterpises, particularly of Central European countries, facilitating thus the access of those enterpises to new markets with a view to the globalisation of economy
- Promote inter-regional co-operation and transferring the experience of the UK local authorities on EMAS implementation
- To examine the applicability of EMAS Regulation both in small and large organisations

Summary of project activities:

The project comprised the main following activities:
- Implementation of EMAS in selected units of the participating municipalities (Municipality of Agii Anargyri, London Borough of Sutton, City of Miskolc)
- Implementation of EMAS in three enterprises, each one located within the geographical area of the participating municipalities (Diplex S.A., Label Express, Miskolc Transport Company).
- Development of EMAS stages (setting up an environmental policy, carrying out an environmental review, setting environmental goals, introducing environmental programmes and environmental management systems,
preparing environmental statements) for all the participating organisations at the same time
- Development of a methodology for co-operation between local authorities and companies
- Preparation of informational material and employee training
- Organisation of national training seminars on EMAS implementation
- Creation of a project Website, including information about the project and the events organised
- Production of a Guide, documenting the experience gained among the partners
- Organisation of a concluding Conference in Hungary, by presenting best practices of organisations having implemented EMAS

Project Results:

The results of the project can be summarised in the following:
- Improvement of the local environment by improving the environmental performance of companies and the local authorities themselves
- The development and testing of more efficient and effective communication processes between municipalities and SMEs which encourage SMEs to get involved in improving their own environmental performance
- Development of methods which allow very small organisations to improve their environmental performance
- One of the participating enterprises has already been verified to EMAS and the other two will proceed in a few months
- All three Municipalities have an operating EMAS in place and two of them have been EMAS registered
- Publication and distribution of the Guide "EMAS in Practice" which provides examples and practical advice to other municipalities and businesses (Available also in electronic format)
- Wide dissemination of EMAS Regulation in Greece and Hungary through the organisation of national seminars, conferences and other events

Principal Partner No 1
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