



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Environment
and resource
efficiency

ENHANCE
Interreg Europe



**EMAS as a nest to help and
nurture the Circular Economy**

An interregional cooperation project for improving resource-efficient economy policies.

Partners

Ministry of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development Regional Government of Andalusia
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies
Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre
CENIA - Czech Environmental Information Agency
Environment Agency Austria

Edited

Ministry of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia
Avinguda de Josep Tarradellas, 2-6
08029 Barcelona
Spain

Ecomundis Communication & Sustainability

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EMAS
ENHANCE

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Introduction

Interreg Europe helps national, regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy through policymakers' capacity building. We are an interregional cooperation programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Our goal is to help policymakers share ideas, experience and good practices, inspire each other, and improve their policies either within our interregional cooperation projects or via our Policy Learning Platform.

Our Policy Learning Platform is the place for policy learning in Europe. A large community of policymakers can share and learn about relevant policy solutions from other regions there. They can find new cooperation partners and become part of a European policy learning network.

ENHANCE is one of the 67 Interreg Europe projects working on the Environment and resource efficiency, one of the four programme topics. ENHANCE focuses on the environmental performance management and is dealing with the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). EMAS is an instrument developed by the European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance.



Mr. Erwin Siweris

Programme Director
Interreg Europe joint secretariat

ENHANCE has reported policy improvements and changes in six European regions represented in the project. Thanks to the project, they have been able to improve governance in areas related to regulatory reliefs and promotional incentives for EMAS organisations, and in green public procurement.

ENHANCE has brought the knowledge about EMAS to many regions in Europe. We believe that ENHANCE can be useful also in promoting circular economy models through EMAS application also in regions, in which the scheme has not been established yet.



ENHANCE

Interreg Europe

In this report we summarize action plans, results, indicators and lessons learnt in the Interreg Europe ENHANCE project that has been carried out for 4 years of work.

ENHANCE overall objective is to improve the implementation of regional policy instruments oriented to increasing the efficiency of resources by the exchange of experiences and practices on supporting EMAS registration. EMAS organizations monitor their processes, aim for continuous improvement and reduce their impact on the environment. These organizations can therefore be leaders in the transition to a circular economy.

I would like to thank all the people and organizations involved in the Interreg Europe ENHANCE Project, especially the project partners and stakeholders as companies, public administrations, verifiers and consultants.

I would also remark the Interreg Europe policy officers duties, the policy makers of Interreg Europe and the European Commission for their proximity and helpful support.



Ms. Mercè Rius i Serra

General Director of Environmental Quality and Climate Change. Ministry of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia.

I invite you to learn more about the good practices, action plans and the performance indicators included in this report, which show the good results obtained to achieve the main project objective and positioning EMAS in European policies.

Executive summary

ENHANCE has developed actions aimed at helping organisations to identify the added value of a resource efficiency management and the competitive advantage that EMAS registration can have, especially for SMEs.

ENHANCE results are ensured by the improvement of regional policies over which it has had an influence. ENHANCE contributes to a better EMAS governance through further integration of EMAS into certain regional and national legal frameworks.



Ma. José Sarrias

Head of the Service of Environmental Qualification
Ministry of Territory and Sustainability,
Government of Catalonia



Organizations, large and Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are increasingly aware of the benefits of closing loops by improving resource efficiency: **saving material costs, creating competitive advantages and new markets are among the main reasons for organizations to act.**

It is in this context that the UE Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) has been used as a tool to ensure a systematic improvement in environmental management and, therefore, more efficient business management. Partners have worked jointly in order to exchange experiences and practices on how to better support EMAS registration in their own regions/countries.

For more information about the how EMAS contributes to the transition to the circular economy, please access to the following document:

 [**Moving towards a circular economy with EMAS**](#)

Also a video was prepared within the ENHANCE project that provides an overview on how EMAS is linked to circular economy and what was the approach that inspired the project.

 [**EMAS as a Nest to Help And Nurture the Circular Economy**](#)

The following scheme represents the outputs generated from the different activities carried out within the project. All of the detailed information, included newsletters, documents, meetings videos, and reports are also available on the ENHANCE site.

 [**ENHANCE Website**](#)

**JOINT DATA BASE OF
GOOD PRACTICES**

**SELECTION OF
GOOD PRACTICES**

REGIONAL STUDIES

**TOWARDS EMAS
ACTION PLANS**

**ENHANCE
FINAL REPORT**

**IMPROVEMENT OF
POLICY INSTRUMENTS**



Project summary

ENHANCE supports public authorities to identify and implement incentives for organizations to adopt Ecomanagement and audit scheme (EMAS) as a tool for resource efficiency in the context of the transition towards a circular economy.

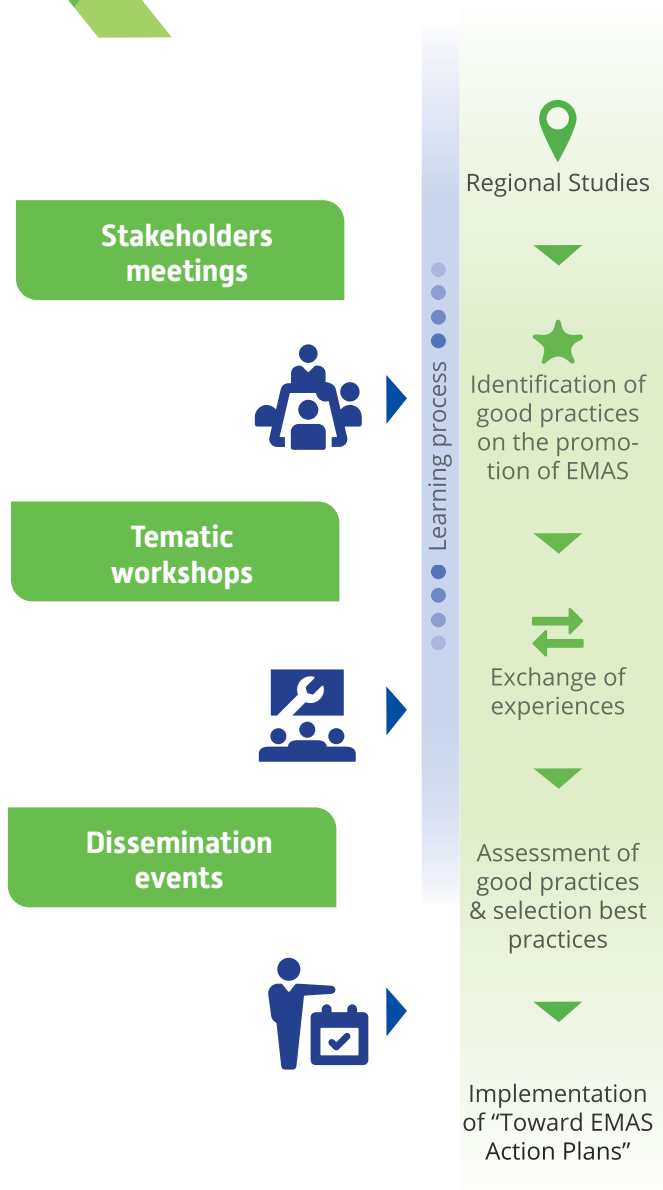
Organizations, large and Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are increasingly aware of the benefits of closing loops by improving resource efficiency: saving material costs, creating competitive advantages and new markets are among the main reasons for organizations to take action.

At this respect, the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is considered as a driver of the Circular Economy by encouraging organizations to develop techniques which make better use of resources in the production phase and retain physical goods longer and more efficiently in productive use, thus increasing their competitiveness.

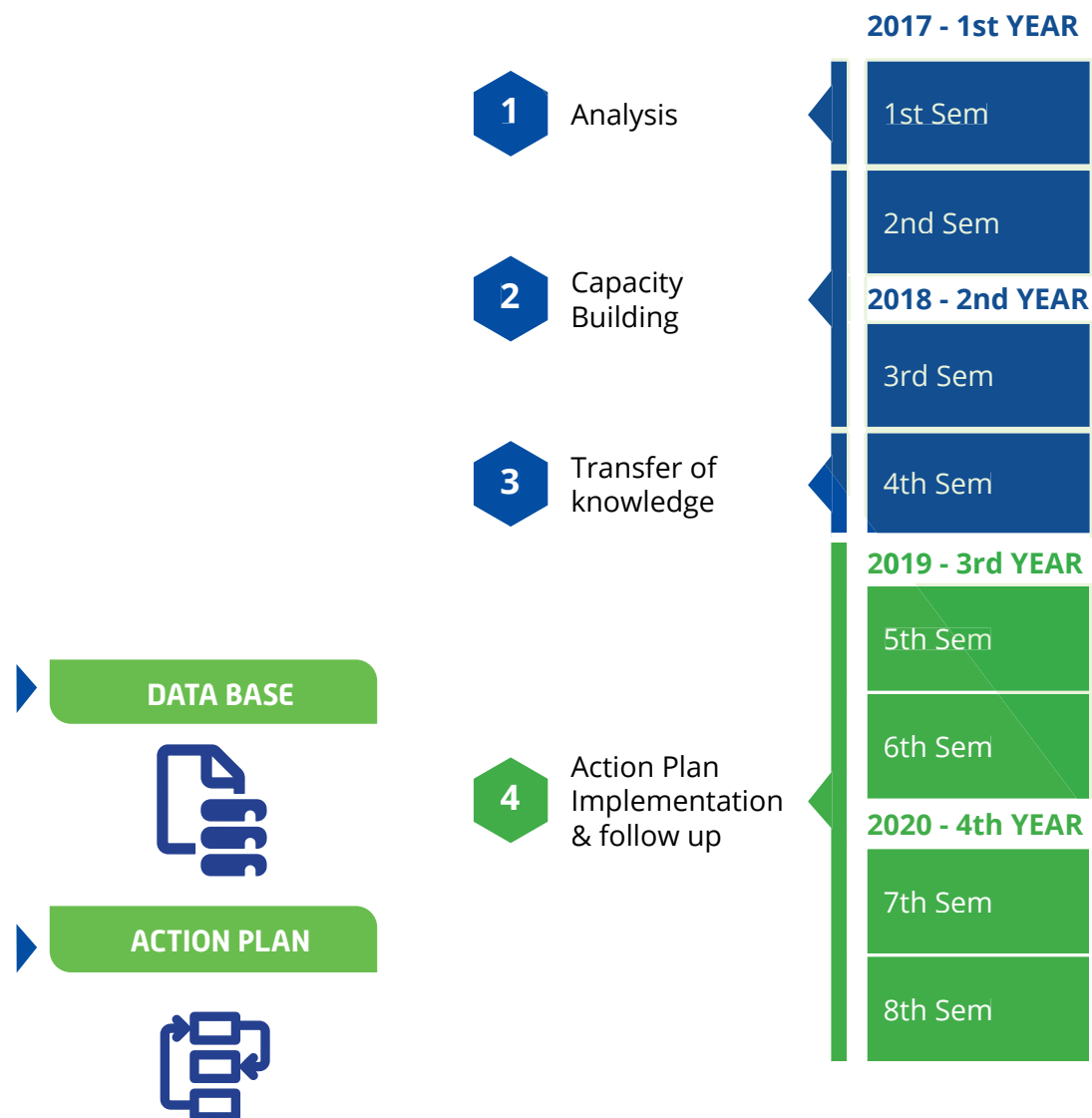
Starting from these considerations, ENHANCE project overall objective is to improve the implementation of regional policy instruments oriented to increasing the efficiency of resources by the exchange of experiences and practices on supporting EMAS registration.



Project activities



Project planning



The partners



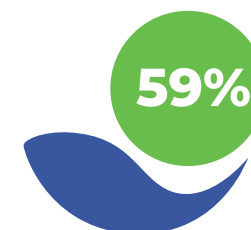
Six partners from different EU countries have been involved in the project:

- LEAD PARTNER
- Ministry of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia (MTS). Catalonia. Spain.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Regional Government of Andalusia (RGA). Spain.
- Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (SSSA). Italy.
- Stockholm Environment Institute - Tallinn Centre (SEI). Estonia.
- Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA). Czech Republic.
- Environment Agency Austria (EAA). Austria.

EMAS registered organizations in the world*



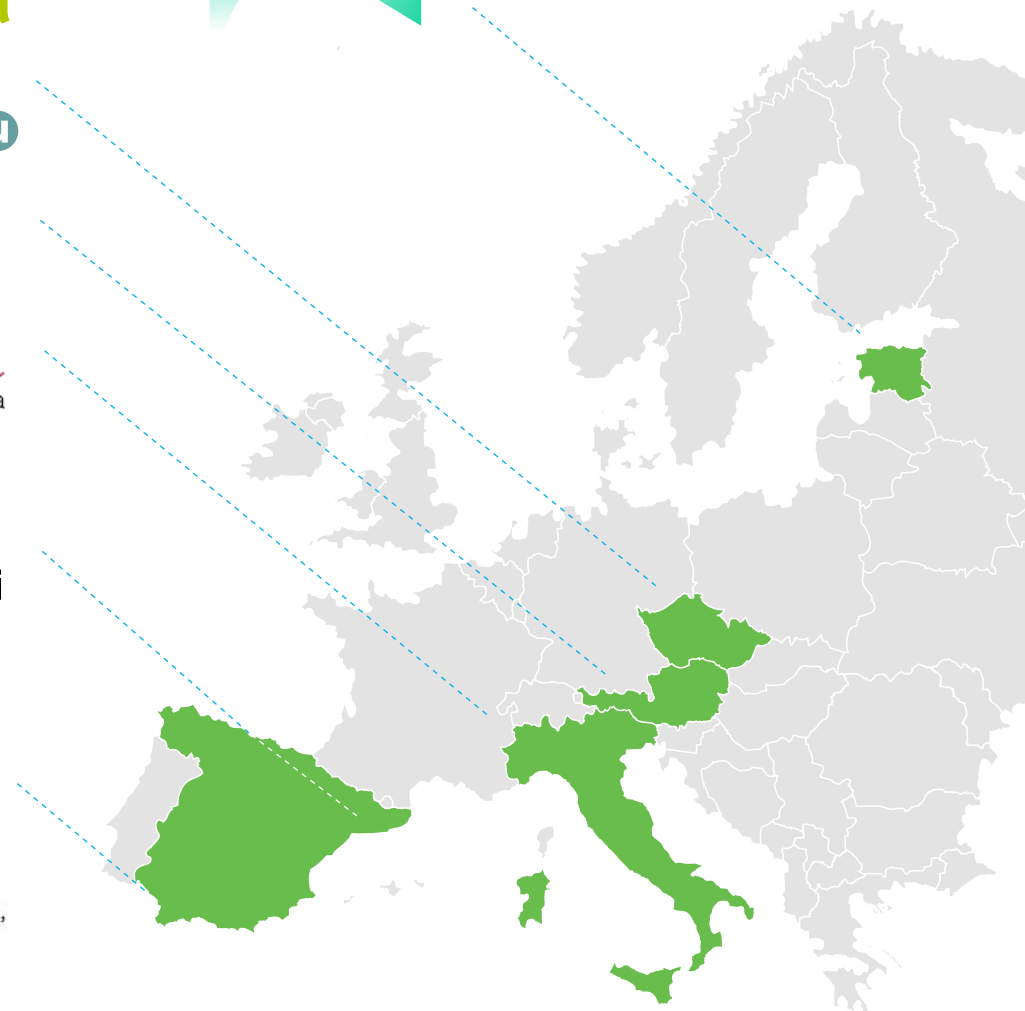
EMAS registered organizations in the partners countries



The composition of the consortium has considered the geographical distribution of the partners so that there was a good balance between North, Central and South Europe, as well as the presence of countries with greater participation in EMAS and experience in the implementation of regulatory relief and incentives



* September 2020



The stakeholders



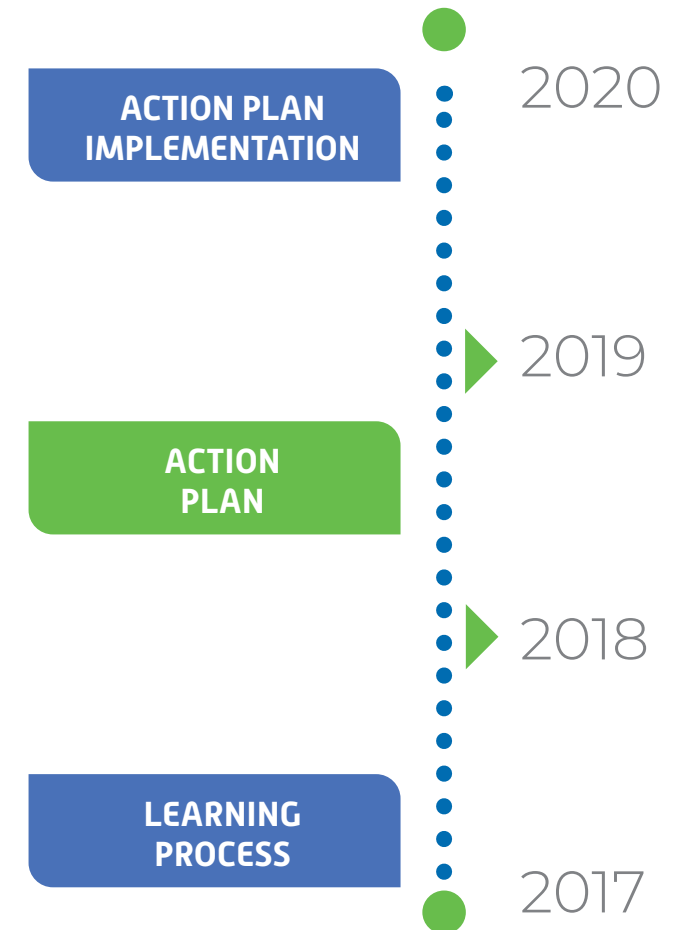
One of the main elements that distinguish projects developed within the framework of Interreg Europe is precisely the involvement of the stakeholders, as it promotes a specific process of innovation with the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

On the other hand, it could not be otherwise in the case of a project that must have an impact on enterprises and the business community. For this reason, the project methodology foresees the creation of stakeholder group for each policy instrument.

Josep Maria Masip

Head of the Section of Qualification System
Ministry of Territory and Sustainability,
Government of Catalonia

THE INTERACTION





THE ROLES



One of the main elements that distinguish projects developed within the framework of Interreg Europe is precisely the involvement of the stakeholders, as it promotes a specific process of innovation with the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

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In the case of the ENHANCE project, each partner has created a stakeholder's group in each region/country and their involvement and active participation has been crucial for the successful development of the project.

The partners have been able to involve 375 representatives of 248 organizations. The following charts describe the distribution of stakeholders participating to the project per partner and thus it is also representative of each involved region and country.

THE ROLES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS

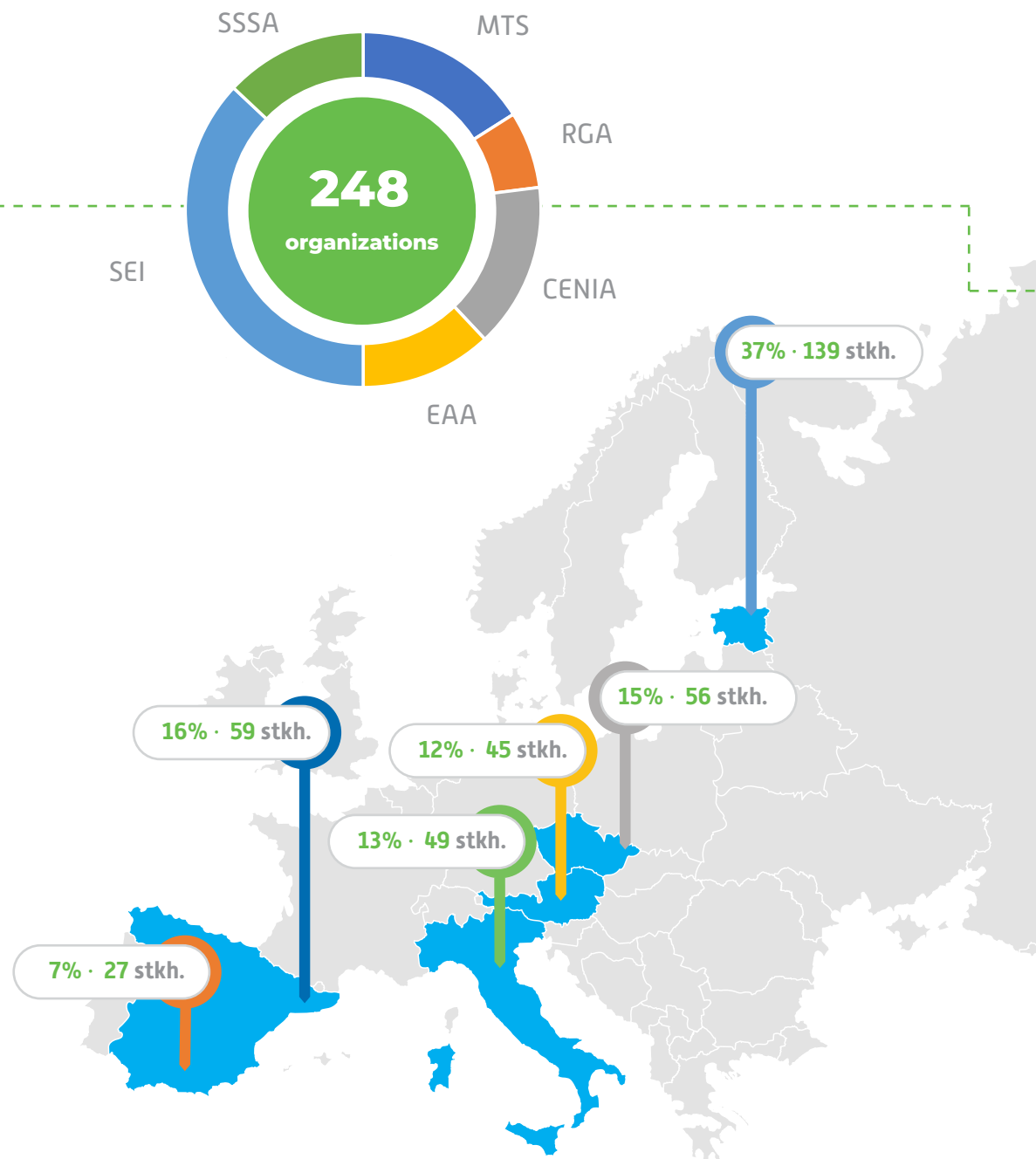
- Identifying and assessing best practices
- Providing inputs on the needs and expectations taking into account the own regional context
- Contributing with knowledge and expertise
- Evidencing possible contradictions, barriers or problems when modifying regulations or policy instruments
- Facilitating the identification and contact of key people in other stakeholders
- Providing key information and data for the different phases of the project.



PARTICIPATION

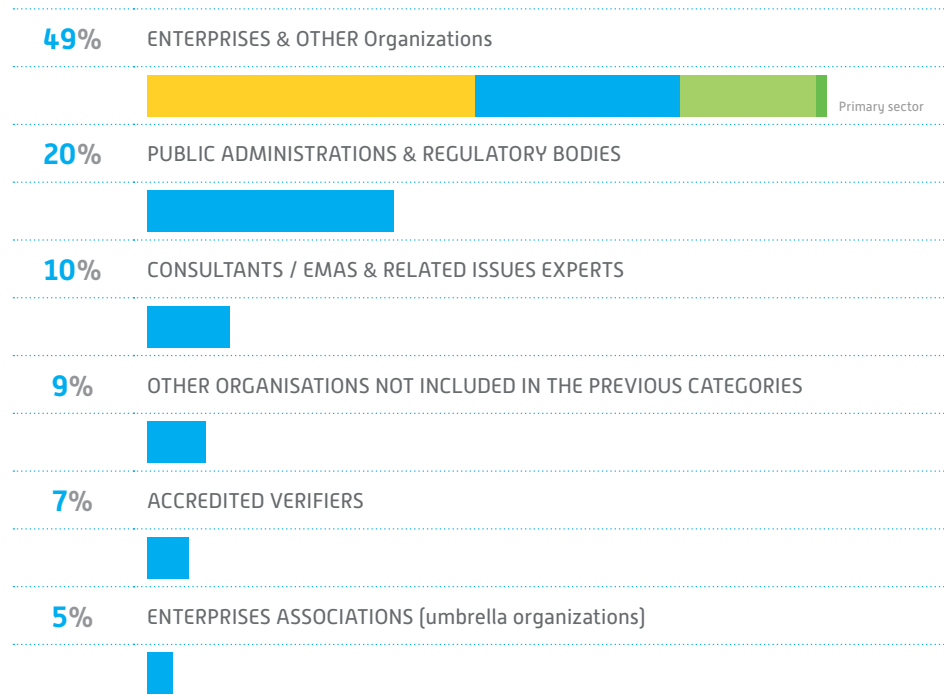
Due to the nature of the project and the policy instruments considered, key stakeholders were public administrations at different levels, enforcement authorities, other administrations involved in the definition of regulations, EMAS registered organizations, non-EMAS registered organizations, EMAS verifiers, enterprises associations, and sectoral associations among others.

Public Administrations and policy makers have been one of the most relevant target groups due to their direct influence in regional policies and their managerial capacity with regard to policy instruments. Involving this target group has been essential in order to guarantee the feasibility of the actions included in the Action Plan as the enforcement and managing authorities, public institutions and agencies at local, regional or national level are those generally bearing the implementation of such actions.





375 Stakeholders (stkh: participants)



Interacting with stakeholders has been an interesting part of the learning process and has allowed partners to envisage the relevance of communication when it comes to the implementation of regulatory reliefs; from this specific aspect related to the communication, stakeholders in general played a key part since they allowed reaching a greater number of people and organizations potentially interested in the actions and their results.

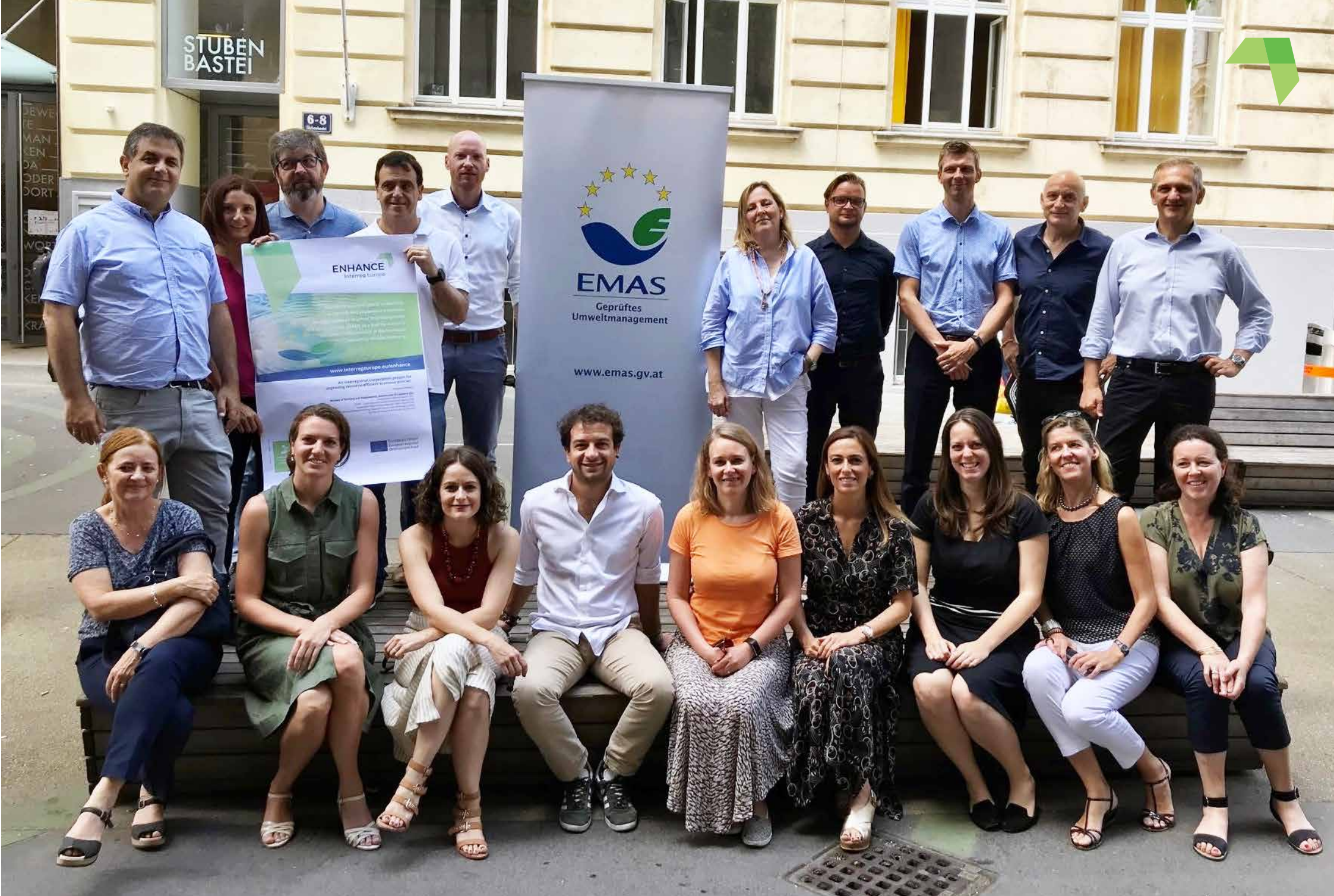


Good practices



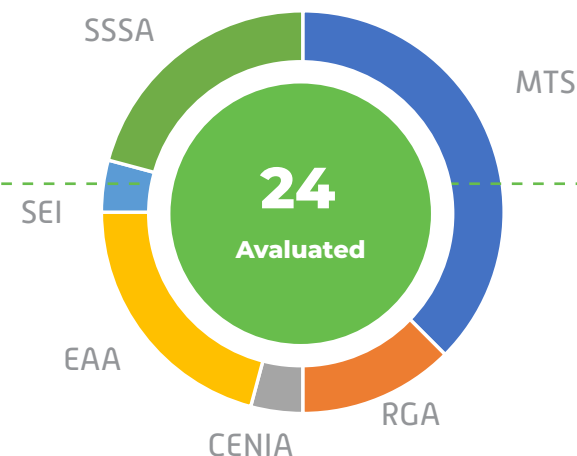
Good practices are an initiative which has proved to be successful in a region and which has the potential to be transferred to other geographical areas. ENHANCE good practices could be a source of inspiration and learning for policymakers all over Europe







EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES



In the project, 24 Good practices on supporting EMAS has been identified and validated by the Policy learning Platform experts. This 24 Good Practices are available at the project website.



The 24 Good Practices has proved to be successful in a region and are of potential interest to other regions.

Of these 24 GPs, 11 have been included in the good practice database of the **Policy Learning Platform**, a collection of 'expert-validated' good practices available at the following link.



- Reduced reporting and monitoring requirements for EMAS organizations: Exemption of periodic control for EMAS registered organizations (except for specific emission controls if established differently by law).
- Measures to promote the greening of public procurement: Guides are part of a process of greening public procurement to implement effectively the inclusion of environmental criteria and clauses in the hiring processes.
- Consideration of EMAS in the IED Inspection Programme: EMAS as a criteria in the definition of the IED inspection programme
- Tender for public transport services by the Barcelona Metropolitan Area: Inclusion of EMAS in the public transport tender by Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.
- Funding for improving resource efficiency in SMEs: Improving resource efficiency via raising awareness of companies and supporting resource use analyses/audits and investments in resource efficient solutions.
- Promotion of EMAS through other voluntary awareness, information and communication tools: Eco-management manuals from Directorate-General for Environmental Quality and Climate Change (DGQACC), Government of Catalonia
- EMAS and the IPPC process: IP organizations which are registered in EMAS can have an advantage when applying for an integrated permit, as well as at the Environmental inspections.
- Reduction of IRAP rate (regional fee) for the EMAS and ISO14001 organizations: Reduction of IRAP rate (regional fee) for the EMAS-registered (3,5%) and ISO14001-certified organization (3,85%). From 2005 to 2008 and extended until 2013.

“
ENHANCE good practices can serve as an inspiration for other regions, less aware of EMAS, to launch similar initiatives promoting the improvement of environmental performance.”



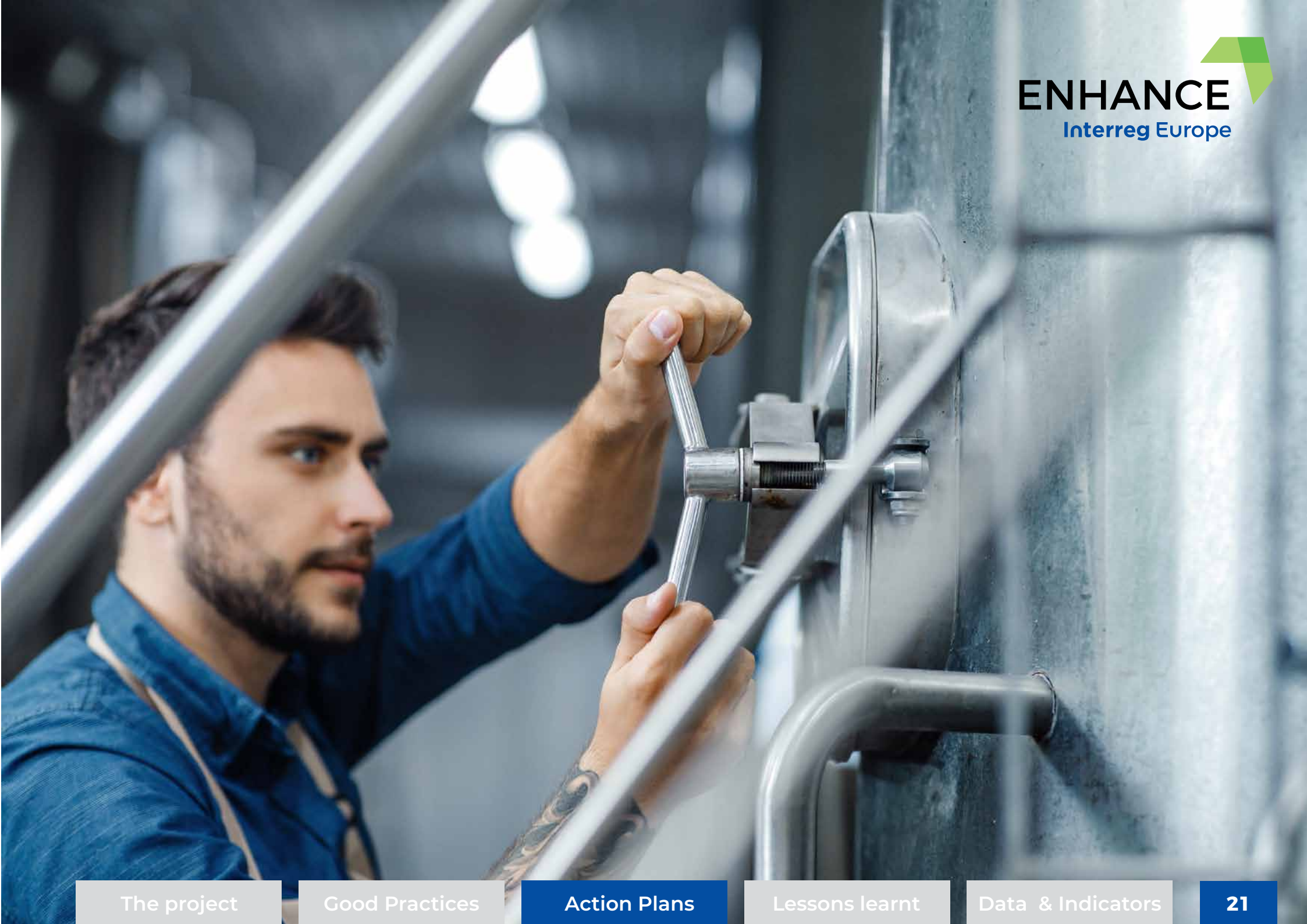
- Tax breaks: reduction for landfills if EMAS or ISO registered organizations: Liguria Region established that certain kind of landfill could benefit for a reduction for every kg of treated waste to the local municipality.
- Extension of the validity of the authorization released to waste treatment plants: Extension of the validity of the authorization released to waste treatment plants for dismissed vehicles (8 years instead of 5 years)
- Self declaration in the procedure of extension of a permission: Firms operating waste plants need authorization for renewal permit or for inscription in the Register for waste management. This measure help the renewal.
- Reduction of financial guarantees of EMAS organizations: Waste Recovery and disposal companies, companies subjected to IED and other participating in public procurement can benefit from financial reductions.
- EMAS: reduction of reporting obligations of environmental data to authorities: Reduction of reporting obligations of environmental data to authorities for EMAS organizations according to the Environmental Management Act §26.
- EMAS: Dispensation from administrative fines: Dispensation from administrative fines if EMAS is implemented, if certain measures are taken.
- EMAS as energy audit report: EMAS and ISO 14001 are approved management systems to fulfil the energy audit report obligation.
- Reduced frequency of environmental inspections: EMAS organizations may have a reduced frequency of environmental inspections, as the participation in EMAS is a risk evaluation criteria.
- Exemption of the Waste management concept: EMAS registered companies are not obliged to deliver a waste management concept if they are publishing an environmental statement with the relevant Information.
- Simplification of the administrative procedure for renewal of EMAS registration: Declaration of responsibility voluntarily provided by EMAS-registered organisation to speed up the administrative procedure for renewal of EMAS registration.
- Reduction of taxes on Gas Emissions to Atmosphere & Discharges to Coastal Waters for EMAS facilities: Discount of the 25% of the investment when the affected facilities have an EMS certified in accordance with EMAS Regulation or ISO14001 Standard.
- Reduction of inspection frequency for EMAS-registered organizations in cross-border waste transfer: EMAS as a criterion of operator's behaviour in the Methodology for the risk assessment of cross-border transfer waste activities in Andalusia.
- Funding support for the promotion of voluntary environmental management systems: Grants for the promotion of voluntary environmental management systems.
- Environmental performance through training organizations with the support of public authorities: It's a training programme related to industrial waste management. It has a very practical approach and it involves representatives of the enforcement authority.
- EMAS Awards: The EMAS Awards are an event created to promote continual improvement in EMAS registered organizations and also as a general tool for the promotion of EMAS.
- Creation of an EMAS Club: Creation of a formal/informal association of EMAS registered organizations in order to develop synergies and optimize resources.

Action plans



At the end of the 2nd year of the project, each partner has established an action plan with five actions, in the case of SEI in Estonia, their action plan has included six actions.

Partners have defined per each action, the sub actions, the related policy instrument and other possible policy instruments affected (and their geographical coverage), the responsible and main features of the policy instrument and the stakeholders involved.





REGULATORY RELIEFS & PROMOTIONAL INCENTIVES

For the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the action plans, partners have also defined the responsible organisation for the implementation of each sub action and the deadlines.

The implementation of action plans has also included the definition of a specific communication action in order to ensure an effective impact of the actions carried out.

For the purpose of the ENHANCE project, 12 regulatory reliefs and promotional incentives were taken into account.

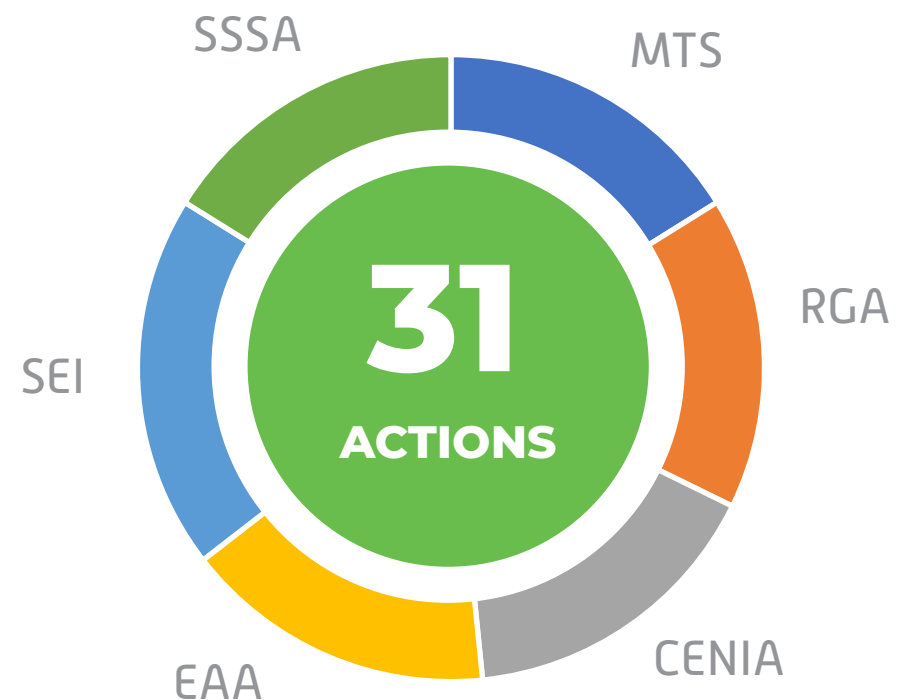
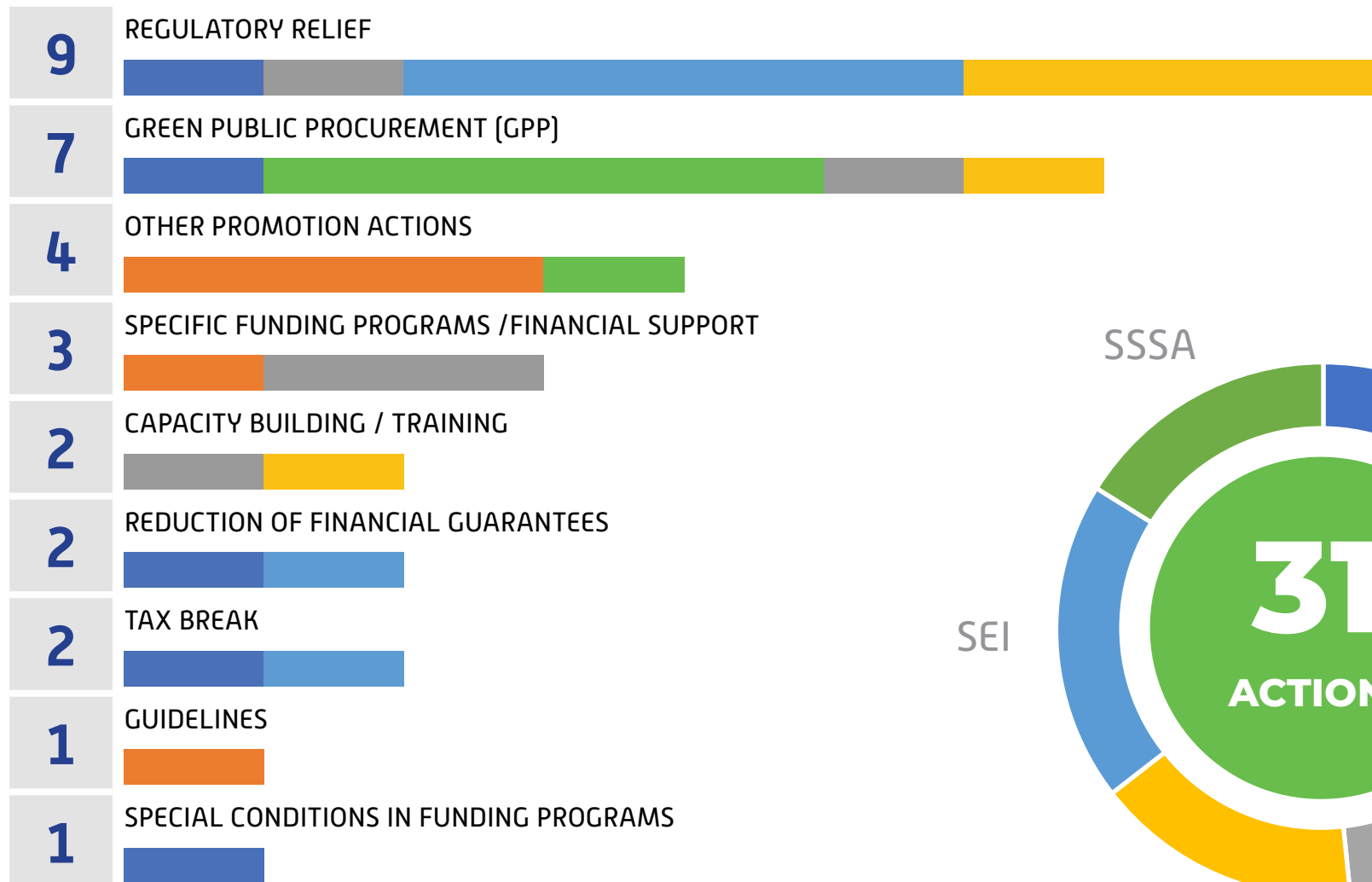
1. Fast-track permits/simplification in the application;
2. Extension of validity of permits/authorizations;
3. Reduced reporting and monitoring requirements;
4. Reduced inspections frequencies;
5. Self-declaration in the procedure of extension of a permit;
6. Self-declaration in the procedure of achieving a new permit;
7. Modification in the scope of a permit;
8. Green Public Procurement (GPP);
9. Credit access and Funding support;
10. Tax breaks;
11. Reduction of administrative fees;
12. Reduction of financial guarantees.



Most of the actions are transversal in nature and therefore apply to all or several sectors of economic activity (9 actions) or in a slightly more specific way to companies that provide products and services to public administrations (7 actions).

But there are also actions specifically focused in the industry sector (7 actions, one of which linked to the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure) or in the waste sector (2), and single actions addressed to the construction, maintenance and waste sector, aquaculture, healthcare, organizations operating in the packaging sector and public administration.

The majority of actions have been successfully implemented, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, some actions faced delays in their implementation, and two of them will not be able to be implemented at the moment.





Ministry of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia (Spain)

MTS

- A 1** Reduction of Financial Guarantees for waste treatment activities ●
- A 2** Special conditions for EMAS registered organizations participating to Circular Economy funding programs ●
- A 3** Promotion of EMAS through Green Public Procurement ●
- A 4** Reduction / Simplification of inspections in EMAS registered companies ●
- A 5** Tax and administrative fees reduction ●

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain)

RGA

- A 6** Search and launching of financial support for EMAS promotion among SMEs in Andalusia ●
- A 7** Dissemination and promotion of the Guideline for EMAS implementation in health sector (Hospitals, Clinics and Health Centres) developed by Andalusian Service on Health ●
- A 8** Development of a Prospective Study for the launching of an EMAS Club in Andalusia ●
- A 9** Development of proposals for EMAS Public Recognition ●
- A 10** Development of dissemination and visibility activities for EMAS register in Andalusia ●

● Action implemented ● Action activities still finalizing ● Action delayed according to plan



Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (Italy)

SSAA

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| A 11 | EMAS as a mean to obtain high ranking in public tenders | ● |
| A 12 | Greening public tenders by EMAS, ISO 14001 and Eco-labelling certifications | ● |
| A 13 | Developing of guidelines and Communication campaign | ● |
| A 14 | Training for public officers involved in public tenders | ● |
| A 15 | Reduction of the inspection frequency for EMAS-registered organizations in the industrial Emissions Directive (IED) framework | ● |

Stockholm Environment Institute – Tallinn Centre (Estonia)

SEI

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| A 16 | Reduction of financial guarantees for EMAS registered companies | ● |
| A 17 | Exemption of environmental charges (taxes) | ● |
| A 18 | Simplification of the environmental permit application | ● |
| A 19 | Reduced reporting requirement | ● |
| A 20 | Reduced inspection requirement | ● |
| A 21 | Relief on energy audit requirement | ● |

● Action implemented ● Action activities still finalizing ● Action delayed according to plan



Czech Environmental Information Agency (Czech Republic)

CENIA

A 22 Reduced frequency of environmental inspections



A 23 Green public procurement (GPP)



A 24 Funding for improving resource efficiency in SMEs



A 25 Credit access and funding support



A 26 Training of public authorities



Environment Agency Austria (Austria)

EAA

A 27 Green Public Procurement – EMAS as award criterion in the tendering process for the construction, maintenance and waste management sector



A 28 Environmental Impact Assessment – Analysis of Thresholds



A 29 Energy Audit – integration of EMAS into Energy Efficiency law



A 30 Training of Public Authorities



A 31 Environmental Inspections – Using Synergies between EMAS verification and environmental inspections



 Action implemented  Action activities still finalizing  Action delayed according to plan

Results



by

Region



Catalonia · Spain



ENHANCE has been a springboard to promote, encourage and give greater visibility to EMAS, with the consequent benefit of environmental performance and the introduction of a competitive model of circular production in companies.

Virginia Ferrer-Vidal

Project partner

Ministry of Territory and Sustainability

Government of Catalonia

Reduction of Financial Guarantees for waste treatment activities

The registration of a waste management activity in the Catalan General Register of Waste Contractors requires a financial guarantee. This financial guarantee is currently set out in a specific document that applies to organizations managing hazardous waste and / or non-hazardous waste.

From a legal point of view, it has been identified the need to link the procedure for calculating the financial guarantee to a new decree on waste management procedures. The new decree must justify the criteria applied for the calculation of the amounts, the reasons and the principles in case of the reduction of the financial guarantee.

The joint work between the Waste Agency of Catalonia and the Directorate-General for Environmental Quality and Climate Change, has made possible to work for to include EMAS in the new Decree, as a criterion to apply special conditions for the determination of the financial guarantee.

Despite the efforts made, due to the health crisis, urgent structural and organizational measures have been adopted that affect the establishment of the financial guarantee, and that make non-hazardous waste management activities permanently exempt from the bond.

The potential impact of the action and the chain effect that can be caused from the perspective of EMAS, could particularly influence SMEs as they represent a very high percentage of the sector. This action can have an indirect impact on other sectors as waste sector is the provider of all industrial activities and a large number of service activities.



EMAS and Circular economy funding programmes

Catalonia adopted a specific action in order to provide special conditions for EMAS registered organizations participating to Circular Economy funding programs managed by the Waste Agency of Catalonia. The process included the proposal of new criteria for the scoring system and its technical and legal assessment to finally modify the terms of reference of the affected funding programmes.

The Waste Agency of Catalonia approved the proposal and it was successfully included in the following call for proposals and published in the Official Journal in may/2019.

It affected four funding programmes for projects related to:

- the promotion of the circular economy
- the prevention, preparation for reuse and recycling of industrial waste
- prevention and preparation for reuse of municipal waste
- the promotion of selective collection of municipal waste.

This action aimed both at boosting the presence of SMEs in actions to promote circular economy and at strengthening the link with environmental management as the basis for sound global and competitive business management.

In 2020, the consideration of EMAS as an evaluation criterion has been consolidated in the grants and has also been added to other funding programmes regarding the research and experimental development of waste treatment plants. The call of the funding programme considers the application of business associations, which may lead to an increase in the EMAS register and act as a reference for other associations.

The inclusion of EMAS in the aforementioned programmes, confirms a consolidation of its consideration in coherence with the obligations that will be established by the future Law on Waste and Resources of Catalonia, in terms of efficiency in the use of resources.

This is an important step and a recognition of the ability of EMAS to address this model change in an orderly and efficient manner. Moreover, this may cause a replication effect on other organizations along the value chain of the waste sector, a sector that has a strong presence in Catalonia.

Promotion of EMAS through Green Public Procurement

The action considered the elaboration of a Guide for the promotion of EMAS in public procurement. The preparation of the Guide has evaluated the experiences of partners from Austria and Italy and the sectoral reference document on best environmental management practices for the public administration sector in the framework of the EMAS Regulation, which considers introducing EMAS as an award criterion in public tenders for the acquisition of goods, services and construction works.

Given the above-mentioned debate, the Guide is being legally reviewed and awaiting the resolution of certain issues related to the following:

- Legal feasibility of EMAS prevailing over other EMS in public procurement
- Implementation of an EMS as a requirement for the contractor.

The Guide aims to promote through public procurement the need for companies to implement EMAS as a very useful tool to encourage the transition to a circular economic model, and provide public buyers with a tool that will make it easier for them to incorporate the management of environmental aspects associated with certain contracts. The Guide is expected to be approved in the first half of 2021, after that period will be possible to carry out a quantitative assessment of the impact of the action on public procurement.

Reduction/simplification of inspections in EMAS registered companies

This action has been developed through two different entities, the Waste Agency of Catalonia and the Service of Information, Inspection and Environmental Control of Activities of the Directorate-General for Environmental Quality and Climate Change (DGQACC).

The proposal to simplify the regime for waste inspections in EMAS-accredited companies is based on the fact that these companies have assumed an environmental responsibility that should ensure a continuous improvement of their environmental performance. Before taking action, it has been necessary to justify and demonstrate its feasibility. The stages developed have been:

- Modification of the waste inspectors check list and collection of data on the level of compliance of organisations (EMAS/ISO 14001/no EMS)
- Creation of a register with the results of the inspections.
- Analysis of the data to evaluate the satisfactory compliance of EMAS companies.

An evaluation was made of the data obtained during 1 year out of a total of 578 inspections, 131 of which were carried out on waste producers or waste managers with an EMAS or ISO 14001 or both. The results have reported in a satisfactory manner the EMAS company profile.

On the basis of these results, an analysis will be made of the feasibility of implementing measures to simplify the inspection regime for EMAS companies, taking into account the regulatory framework, the type of establishment and other factors.

Since 2018 the Service of Information, Inspection and Environmental Control of Activities within the framework of the ENHANCE project, considers EMAS as a criterion for determining the frequency of inspections.



Considering this background, now it's being evaluated the potential use of the Environmental Statement in the framework of integrated environmental inspections. During the inspections carried out in 2020, it was planned to test the feasibility of the action but due to the health crisis it has not been possible to carry out. The action will be taken up again in 2021. Moreover, it has been raised the training inspectors in the use of Environmental Statements.

Tax and administrative fees reduction

This action required a study to analyse the administrative fees that could be potentially reduced with a view to modify the law on fiscal, administrative, financial and public sector measures. Finally, law 5/2020, of April 29th, was published integrating the following package of measures for EMAS organizations:

- Taxes related to procedures for the environmental authorization (75% of reduction).
- Fees for conducting on-site inspections and preparing the report for activities with a high potential environmental impact, and covered by the environmental impact assessment and environmental authorization regime(75% of reduction).
- Fees for greenhouse gas emission authorization applications under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (50% of reduction).

With the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, the Government of Catalonia has adopted the application of bonuses of 100% of the fees issued within the scope of the Waste Agency of Catalonia competences for all companies.





Andalusia · Spain



Exchanging experiences to reinforce the search for alternatives and tools to continue advancing towards a Circular Economy model around which a new business fabric can be developed, taking a chance on innovative and sustainable solutions in their production process.

Inmaculada Tola

Project partner
General Directorate on Environmental
Quality and Climate Change,
Government of Andalusia.

In Andalusia there are several public and private initiatives aimed at improving and conserving the environment and stopping the consequences derived from the climate change. For this, the RGA wants to give an added value and reward the effort, commitment and entrepreneurial labour of Andalusian society, encouraging companies, scientists, Administrations, Associations, Foundations, etc. to play a strong and active role in the Green Revolution and in the fight against climate change in Andalusia.

For its part, the EMAS Scheme is recognized at European level as one of the main to move towards a Circular Economy model. In this sense, the DGCACC, responsible for the planning, direction and execution of the EMAS inscriptions, decides to undertake actions to give a public testimony of recognition to the labour that EMAS-registered organizations are doing in order to preserve, protect and disseminate the environmental values in Andalusia.

To achieve the objectives set on these environmental priorities in Andalusia (Green Revolution), a collaboration and association between SMEs and the Administration has been necessary.

At this respect, the DGCACC foresees the improvement, promotion and development of voluntary instruments (EMAS among others) in SMEs as a key element for improving their environmental performance, for the sustainability of the production system and for generation green jobs.

In order to guarantee sustained results and a more efficient implementation, 3 Policy Instruments need to be improved in order to encourage organizations to adopt systematically good environmental practices, as well as to foster collaboration among public authorities and other stakeholders to guarantee a successful implementation of EMAS and other voluntary schemes by SMEs.



In this sense, the wide consultation activities in which public and private authorities were involved to discuss about how to support the EMAS scheme has contributed to creating a positive environment and awareness around these PIs. Within the constitution of Andalusian SHG, a wide number of SHs (such as control authorities, trade organizations, companies' verifiers) have cooperated to identify regulatory reliefs and/or promotional incentives supporting EMAS companies in implementing and/or maintaining the certification.

The set of measures on promotional incentives, in this case, evaluated within the SHG in Andalusia grounded on the idea that if an organization has an EMAS registration this is sufficient for providing higher score, simplifying administrative procedures, improving public recognition and trust, etc.

Thus, EMAS has been considered by the RGA as a pillar of the Circular Economy Policy, and thanks to the crucial boost given by the ENHANCE Project to its implementation in Andalusia, we can say that EMAS-registered organizations are one step closer to circular economy as they can monitor their processes and thus constantly reduce their environmental impacts.

The actions carried out in the framework of ENHANCE Action Plan in Andalusia in support of the EMAS adoption have already contributed to increasing policy makers' awareness about how to support (often without additional financial efforts) the uptake of one of the most important environmental policy instruments based on a voluntary approach.

The impact of the Action Plan in the Policy Instrument is strongly related to the fact that the organizations that have implemented EMAS have already taken an important first step towards achieving a Circular. Their knowledge of resource consumption and environmental impact enables them to implement measures that optimize the use of their resources in line with circular economy principles. EMAS has an important role to play in helping public and private organizations unlock the potential of the circular economy and in helping use its resources more efficiently, supporting these IPs, which, among its priorities EMAS is considered an enabler to stimulate the improving the competitiveness, development of innovative techniques, greening the economy and reducing costs in the longer term.

In this sense, 3 performance indicators have been defined by the RGA to measure the influence of the actions adopted in the framework of ENHANCE project. In general, 75 EMAS-registered organizations have received these non-financial grants, while all actions adopted in the framework of the Action Plan are focused on and aimed at these organizations, providing them promotional incentives.

It is worth emphasising that not only these indicators connected to the number of organisations benefiting from these actions show the impact and influence on our IPs, but also the number and type of actions adopted for the first time in Andalusia.

These actions and their respective results and impacts are described below.

Public Recognition of EMAS registration

Regarding the 24th Edition of Environmental Awards, all organizations were susceptible to submit their candidacy for any of the five categories established in the Regulatory Bases (approved by Order of 6th April 2020). Thus, 75 EMAS-registered organizations have been able to receive a higher score, thus obtaining an extra added value compare with non EMAS candidates.

On the other hand, as another merit of Public Recognition, EMAS has been mentioned in the agenda of several Public Events. Thus, all EMAS-registered organizations have been able to benefit from the sense of EMAS Community provided by high officers from the Directorate General on Environmental Quality and Climate Change (DGCACC).

“#ConEMASTodosGanamos” campaign

#ConEMASTodosGanamos is an EMAS Visibility Campaign developed and launched by the DGCACC in the framework of the EMAS Dissemination Strategy for Andalusia to promote EMAS Registration through Social Media, Press Releases, EMAS Help Desk. Additionally, several dissemination materials (4 videos, 2 static and dynamic infographics, 3 gifs for social media, 1 roll-up and 1 brochure about EMAS benefits and procedure in Andalusia) were developed and made available to all EMAS-registered organizations in the website of the RGA, then all EMAS-registered organizations have been able to benefit and make use of this communication toolkit

in their own communication media. However, the RGA has not real data on how many of them used (or will use) the materials. Only 4 EMAS-registered organizations have published the campaign in their respective websites and a lot of retweets have been made by our key Stakeholders.

Proposals for the EMAS inclusion in the grants for the Sustainable Development of Marine Aquaculture in Andalusia.

Two proposals have been done by the DGCACC and approved by the Directorate General on Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGFA) for EMAS promotion among aquaculture sector, one of key sectors in the Region:

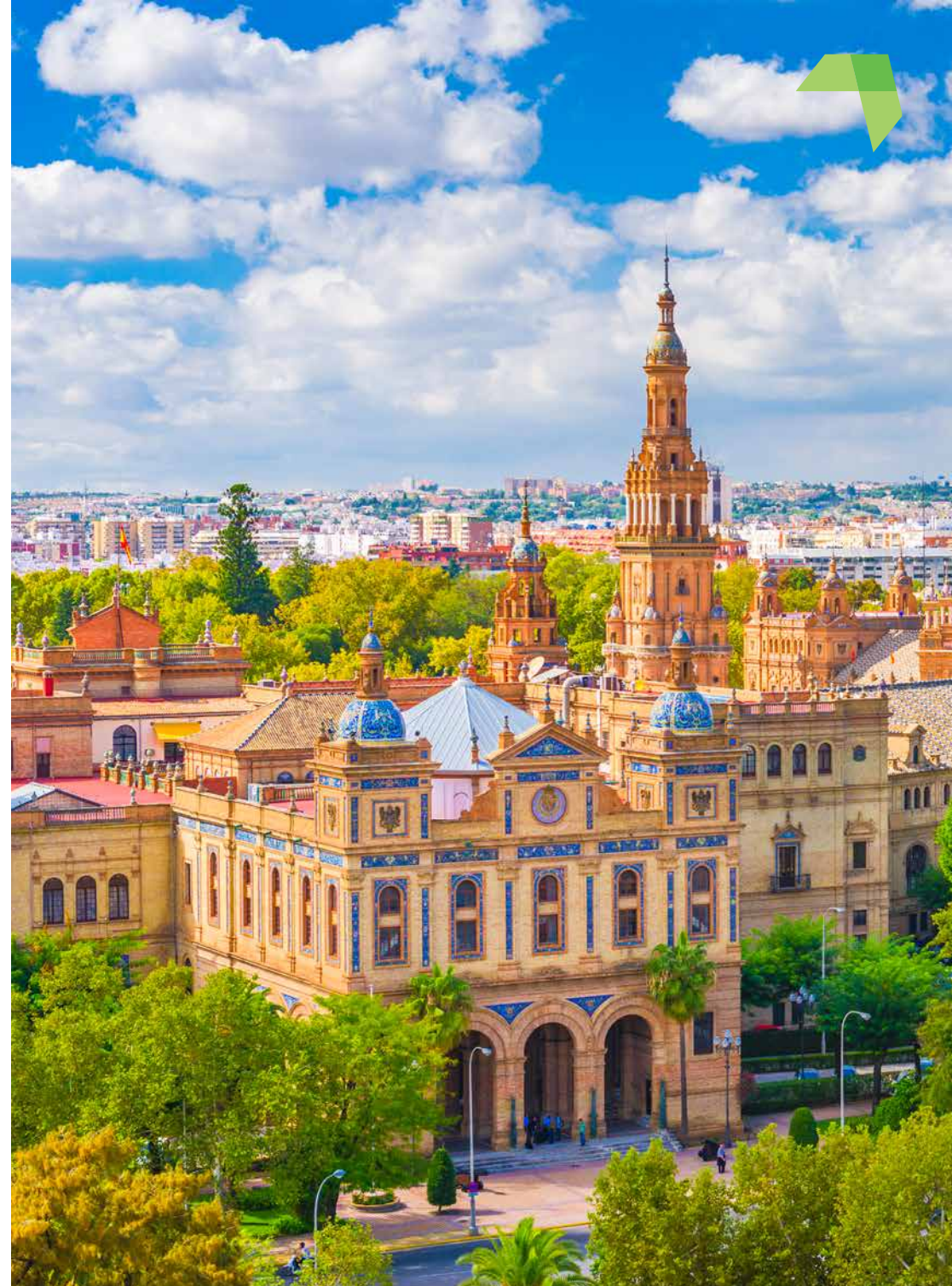
- Proposal of non-exclusive character for the lines of grants for EMAS implementation with other lines of grants for improvements in productive processes within the Call for grants for Sustainable Development of marine aquaculture sector in Andalusia; and
- Proposal for inclusion of EMAS as an award criterion (higher score) for the Lines of grants a), b), c), d) y g) within the Call of grants for Sustainable Development of marine aquaculture sector in Andalusia.

In this sense, there are three EMAS-registered organizations from the aquaculture sector in Andalusia that are susceptible to benefit, if appropriate, from the inclusion of EMAS Registration in the

grants for the Sustainable Development of Marine Aquaculture in Andalusia, receiving a higher score simply for the fact of having EMAS Registration for any of the lines of grants a), b), c), d) y g). Additionally, other 7 companies from the aquaculture sector are susceptible to benefit from this inclusion of EMAS, but, in this case, for the lines of grants e) and f) simply for the fact of having another Management System, such as ISO14001, Global GAP, ISO22000, etc.

EMAS Club in Andalusia

A Prospective Study for launching of an EMAS Club in Andalusia has been developed by the DGCACC. In the framework of this study, a Final Report with the main achieved conclusions is foreseen in order to promote its establishment by all EMAS-registered organizations. Thus, all EMAS-registered organizations are susceptible to join the EMAS Club in Andalusia and thus benefiting from its services and advantages.





Italy



ENHANCE has contributed to demonstrate how EMAS could be relevant in promoting circular economy. The use of EMAS in Green Public Procurement could facilitate the achievement of circular procurement goals.

Tiberio Daddi

Project partner

Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

Greening public tenders by EMAS, ISO 14001 and Eco-labelling certifications

Even if the COVID19 emergency has altered the programs, the activity of SSSA on Actions n.1 and 2 of Action Plan has gone on.

Confirming this, Liguria Region has officially mentioned and recognized ENHANCE in its deliberation n.341/2020 of 24/04/2020. In the same document, Liguria Region has also stated the willingness to continue to develop synergies coming from ENHANCE with SSSA for the future activities – that means an influence also on the next Three-years GPP Plan that will be developed at the end of 2020.

Regional event

On September 15th, SSSA has organized the Interreg Europe ENHANCE Regional Dissemination Event to share with its main stakeholders the activity and the results of ENHANCE Towards EMAS Action Plan. In this occasion, apart from the presentation of results obtained since now, Environmental Certifications and their role in supporting Circular Economy and Green Deal was presented and a specific focus was made on the State of the art of GPP in Italy (Simone Ricotta, ARPA Toscana).

These two speeches were appreciated by the audience because GPP is a topic that is increasing its attention by both policymakers and companies and Environmental Certifications are a tool that can boost both Circular Economy and Green Deal EU policies (see previous paragraph). Around 30 people were connected during the event and more were pre-registered.

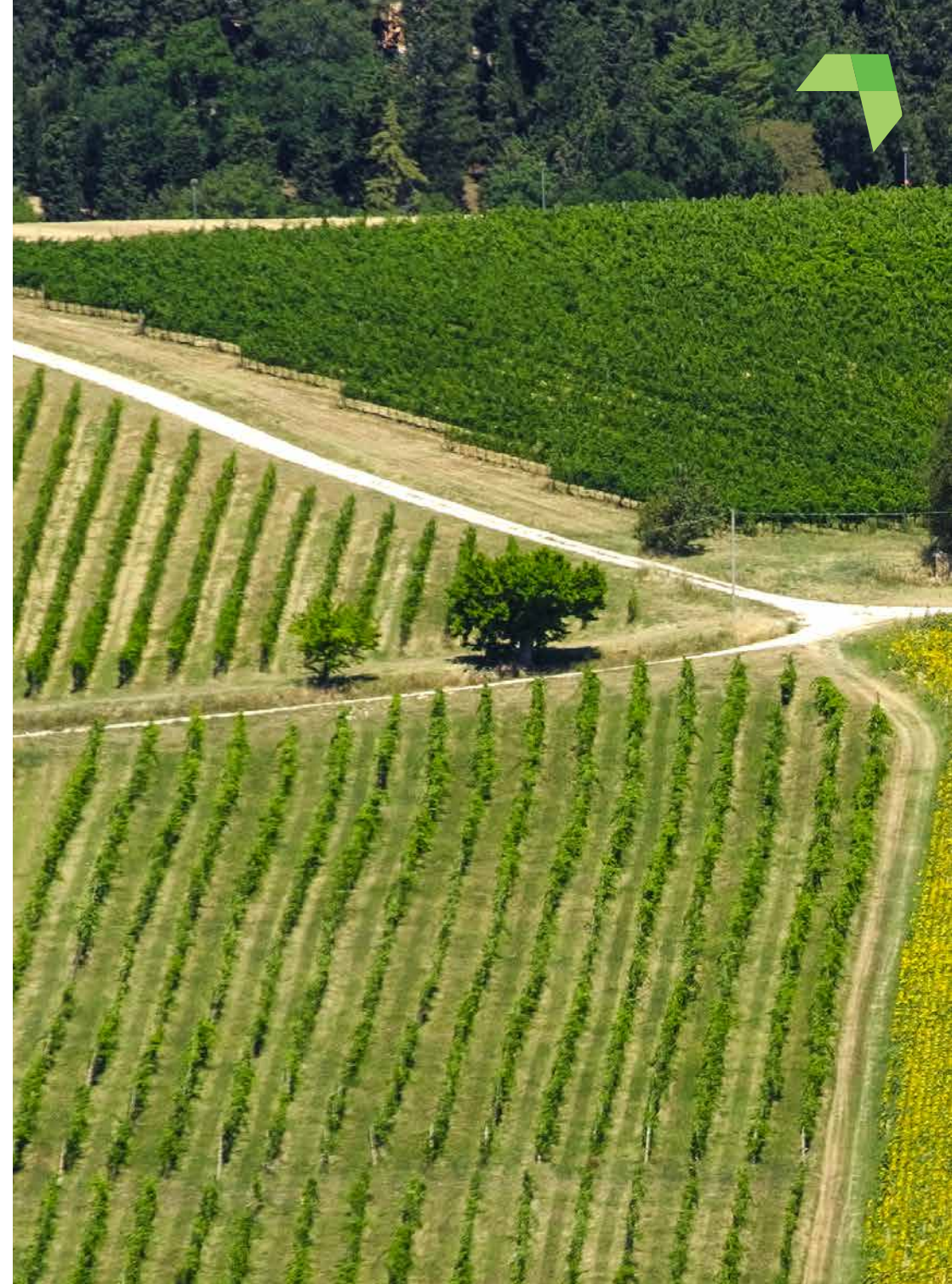


Training for public officers

Regarding Action n.4, a dedicated event took place on November 26th –online – to train public officers. This was the occasion also to have a follow-up in respect to the analysis done during 2018 and was still on the path of increasing awareness.

The event was organized jointly by SSSA and Liguria Region and has seen more than 70 subscribers and more than 40 active participants, all in representation of the stakeholders reached during the last years by SSSA and Liguria Region during ENHANCE development. The speakers talked about Environmental Certifications (including EMAS) in supporting the GPP, in the view of supporting EU Circular Economy policies and Green New Deal plan. In that occasion, some updates were done on the new Three years plan of Liguria Region on GPP (the subsequent policy instrument of the one targeted by ENHANCE), besides some news about the last choices of EU policymakers on EMAS and Circular Economy.

At the end of the event (2hours) a debate was stimulated between the participants. Major issues emerged were the difficulties by public officers dealing with GPP in facing the drafting of tenders and the need for more training on the Eco-certifications and their role in supporting their daily job, including EMAS. Nevertheless, a quite an unexpected enthusiasm accompanied the theme of GPP, that is generating great interest in PAs. At the event were connected public officers from the whole Italian territory, and a short presentation on the Guidelines developed for Action n.3 was done, enlarging the possible spread of that document in the whole PA public officers' environment.





Estonia



The ENHANCE project has had a considerable impact in Estonia as thanks to the project, the number of companies implementing EMAS has increased by five times! Therefore we can say that ENHANCE has brought about a renaissance of EMAS in Estonia.

Harri Moora, PhD

Project partner
SEI - Stockholm Environment Institute
Tallinn Centre

Reduction of financial guarantees for EMAS registered companies

An amendment to the Waste Act (§ 983) has exempted EMAS registered companies from a warranty or financial guarantee related to waste depositing since the beginning of this year. This measure has given a very strong impetus to the implementation of EMAS, especially in the sector related to waste management and the circular economy.

Today, most of the major waste management companies in Estonia (7 companies out of 10 major waste management companies) have started to implement EMAS. As a result, it can be expected that the number of EMAS registrations among business organizations will increase this year in Estonia more than 5 times.

Relief on energy audit requirement

Thanks to this action, large EMAS-registered companies are exempted from carrying out energy audits under the EU's Energy Efficiency Directive. This relief has received positive feedback from quite a number of companies and thus can be expected to be an additional incentive for enterprises to implement EMAS. For example, one of the largest hospitals in Estonia (Tartu University Hospital) mentioned that this measure was one of the incentives that supported their decision to implement EMAS.

Reduced inspection requirement

A study was carried out to analyse the compatibility of EMAS audits and environmental inspections. The results showed that the inspection requirement can be reduced if EMAS verifiers carry out their audits by applying approach and procedure that is harmonised with the inspection check. To support that process a check list was



created for EMAS auditors to make sure that they check the same aspects as in the environmental inspection when they check legal compliance.

Reduced reporting requirement

It was decided to implement the initial action idea in a slightly narrower context i.e. packaging waste reporting. It means that EMAS certified producers (enterprises who put packaged goods to the market) have exemption from the packaging related self-monitoring/auditing and reporting obligation. Relevant amendments have been drafted both in Waste Act and Packaging Act, which are expected to be adopted in 2021.

Two actions (reduction of environmental charges and simplification of environmental permit process) have not been completely implemented as the government priorities have changed due to COVID-19.





Czech Republic



ENHANCE project have brought us a lot of experiences, the lesson learned for us is: Always have a bright perspective and think outside the box. Hopefully we started a new, more vivid chapter of EMAS.

Jana Sajdoková

Project partner
Czech Environmental Information
Agency

Reduced inspection frequencies

Through this action, CENIA achieved an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment and Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI), to update the part of the Internal matrix (Internal Risk Assessment Framework), which CEI uses as a guide for the inspections, and specifically the part which includes the inspection frequencies is the one that has been modified. Newly frequency of CEI inspections are extended by one year for EMAS registered companies, if there isn't any high-risk potential. CEI is now using the updated version of the matrix, which is friendlier to EMAS registered companies.

This matrix is a document which sets the exact rules inspectors must follow during inspections within the implementation of the national Act. No. 76/2002. Thus, this new matrix influences the application of that specific law. In the 2020, 2 EMAS registered organizations have been assessed with a new procedure, both renewed their registration successfully.

EMAS Funding support

This action is under the competence of the Ministry of Industry and Trade as they manage a program to support the energy savings in organizations (EFEKT Program, for the Support of Energy Savings for the Period 2017-2021). Within this program, there's a part which includes support, among other things, for the introduction of a form of energy management system, which also applies to the EMAS system.

The subsidy specifically concerns the creation of documents, the organization (definition of processes, responsibilities, flows, information, etc.), the preparation of systems for monitoring and evaluation of energy consumption.

The funding support does not apply to the verification or the certification process, but it is assumed that once the system is implemented, it will meet the requirements set by ČSN EN 50001 or the EMAS environmental management and audit system.



This subsidy began in the year 2017 and since that time, 36 projects on environmental management have been supported from 40 applications. The overall amount of subsidy was 380 thousand EUROS. This subsidy could be given to the companies with EMAS, who renewed their registration, and also to the companies with ISO14001, that is why it is very difficult to define a clear pattern of this funding support. Never the less, this action hasn't raised the number of new EMAS - registered companies yet.

Education programs for the public authorities

An NGO with which CENIA is collaborating, has created the textbook which is oriented very wide spread through all basic environmental topics. In the near future, the methodology sheet, which is geared towards GPP, specifically how to apply EMAS in green public procurement should be published. Moreover, a set of the brochures with basic fact sheet will be issued.

Unfortunately, due the corona – crisis, the works are delayed. The authorities responsible for this program is now evaluating actual situation, and probably there will be an effort to move the program to the online environment. The effort is to use tools as a webinar, videos and e-learning platforms. Hopefully soon the action will start generating positive impacts in the way public authorities work.





Austria



One of the positive aspects of the project is that partners and stakeholders have been able to discuss various adopted practices, not only those that have worked, but also those that have not generated the expected results in the past.

Monika Brom
Project partner
Environment Agency Austria

Green Public Procurement

Adding EMAS to green public procurement regulations can be a very good incentive for organisations to implement EMAS. Austria saw this in the case of cleaning services: the number of cleaning services with EMAS increased from 2 to 20 registrations.

Thanks to the stakeholder workshop with GPP experts from different organisations and public procurement officers in November 2018, recommendations for technical specifications and awarding criteria were added to the Austrian Action Plan for Green Public Procurement, which includes the following new requirements:

- For the waste sector – The contractor for waste collection services must have implemented an environmental quality assurance system. The verification document can be now an environmental statement.

- For the construction, maintenance sector–EMAS organizations are higher rated in the awarding process than ISO organizations (EMAS organizations receive 100% of the available points, ISO organizations only 80%).

The Action Plan for Green Public Procurement is currently under revision and will be published at the end of October 2020.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and EMAS – possible links and reliefs for EMAS organisations

The EAA learned from the Italian colleagues that there could be a possible link between EMAS and the Environmental Impact Assessment. An analysis of how to achieve a synergy of these two instruments has been done by means of a master thesis. Within this thesis, a survey among EMAS organisations led to the following conclusions. A full applicability of the Italian measures is not possible



in Austria. On one hand the costs that have been reduced in Italy do not exist in Austria, on the other hand Austrian threshold values are already considered comparatively high (Austria has been already criticized by EU Commission) and therefore Austria won't risk any treaty violation proceedings.

According to the thesis, the implementation of specific reliefs for EMAS organisations in the EIA scheme could be as follows:

- Better consideration of EMAS documentation (statement, audit report) especially in the case of plant adaptations of companies that participate in EMAS
- EMAS environmental statement could replace the climate and energy concept.

Consideration of EMAS in the Austrian Energy Efficiency Law

The Austrian Energy Efficiency Law is the national implementation of the EU directive. However, the goal was a similar approach as in Germany. In Germany, the environment statement counts as the energy audit report. In Austria, an external or internal audit still has to be done besides the environmental statement. There are no time savings for competent authorities or for the EMAS organisations. Thus, there are no real advantages for EMAS, ISO14001 and 50001 companies in relation to the Austrian Energy Efficiency law.

Therefore, an analysis of the German adaption of the Energy Efficiency Law was carried out. The analysis looked at the Energiedienstleistungsgesetz §8 in comparison to §9 of the Austrian Energy Efficiency Law and highlighted a possible approach in Austria. This gap analysis was translated and sent out to other member states e.g. Poland.

An informal survey on the current implementation in Austrian EMAS companies was conducted. Also EMAS companies emailed the responsible bodies with improvement requests. All of these actions led to a discussion with experts from the responsible bodies regarding the future of the Austrian Energy Efficiency Act.

A new legislative proposal is ready, but not yet under assessment.

Training and information of Public Authorities about EMAS

The recognition of EMAS often depends on the competent authorities. The more the authorities trust in the EMAS system, the better the cooperation with EMAS companies will work. Therefore, EAA put a focus on the training and information of public authorities within the ENHANCE project.

A one-day training schedule for the federal academy of public administration on the national level was drafted. Vienna was selected as a pilot region for the first trainings. In the future, trainings will be expanded to the rest of Austria.

Originally, the first training was planned for May, due to the coronavirus crisis the training had to be postponed. The new date is already fixed and the training program for the seminar on December 10 was prepared.

Moreover, a leaflet, informing all competent authorities about EMAS, was sent out to 150 authorities.

In the new government program of 2020, public institutions are required to introduce environmental management systems ("comprehensive introduction of environmental management systems in the state sector"), EAA is expecting more registrations in the public sector in future.

Environmental Inspections – Using Synergies between EMAS verification and environmental inspections

As Environmental Inspectors are needed to promote EMAS, they should be better informed about EMAS. There should also be communication channels between inspectors and EMAS verifiers. EMAS audit reports and the full inspection reports should be exchanged among them. This should lead to less effort for EMAS companies (less internal costs/resources).

Thus, training schedules for environmental inspectors were drafted. However, due to the corona crisis the trainings had to be postponed.

Another focus was put on the BAT Documents with implementing decisions regarding environmental management, as these implementing decisions can be met with EMAS.

A common letter to the JRC was sent regarding the integration of EMAS in the BREF and BAT conclusions and implementing decisions. As a result, the JRC has decided that there will be a reference to EMAS in the future. This reference was already integrated in BAT / BREF conclusions for waste incineration and food & beverages.

Since the beginning of the ENHANCE project Austria got 39 new EMAS organisations with 127 sites in Austria. Seven of these registrations (almost 18%) with 20 sites are located in western Austria, the area targeted by the EAA within the ENHANCE project.



Lessons learnt



Working side by side for four years with partners from different countries and stakeholders of various kinds is undoubtedly an enriching process from different perspectives, both at the level of organizations and with each professional involved.

We want to share our top lessons with other EMAS competent bodies and public bodies across Europe, the following paragraphs summarise what the partners consider general issues than can be transferred to similar projects in other EU member states and regions:





Lesson

1

Our stakeholders **are our best allies**

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to be successful on improving a policy instrument without engaging the stakeholders. In the case of the ENHANCE project, the process of designing and implementing a regulatory relief or incentive is very complex as the regulatory relief/incentive:

- Should be attractive to stakeholders and really provide them with an added value
- Be technical, economically and legally viable
- Should be well integrated in the context and framework of the policy instrument
- Be consistent with other policy instruments
- May regard different public bodies at different levels.





Lesson

2

Communicating a regulatory relief/incentive for companies is as important as creating it

Public bodies usually disseminate regulatory reliefs and incentives through the policy instrument itself or through their web pages and newsletters. These three ways do not necessarily reach the target audience. Some ways that could enhance the communication impact of a new regulatory relief could be:

- Its presentation within specific webinars, conferences and other events
- Meetings with EMAS registered organizations and non-EMAS organizations, as well as with accredited verifiers, consultants and other organizations that could contribute to spread the word.
- Sectorial communication through the enterprise associations, sectoral federations, etc.
- Articles, interviews in specialized magazines (better if you can involve one of the organizations that have already benefited from a regulatory relief and explain its experience)
- Social networks
- And of course, the peer-to-peer communication that must always be promoted.





Lesson

3

We learn from both successes and failures

One of the positive aspects of the project is that partners and stakeholders have been able to discuss various adopted practices, not only those that have worked, but also those that have not generated the expected results in the past.

This has helped us to see the possible failures, barriers and key elements of a certain context that affect the correct implementation of a regulatory relief or can prevent a change in a policy instrument. Furthermore, not all measures are adapted in the same way to each region or country, so this debate has helped each partner to better inquire the starting elements of their own reality.





Lesson

4

To build trust you have to generate knowledge

One of the main barriers for the implementation of regulatory relief is the reluctance of some public bodies to recognize voluntary schemes. Different partners have faced a similar situation in their countries, there's a lack of both credibility and knowledge on EMAS among certain enforcement authorities nevertheless the number of EMAS registrations in each country.

In order to overcome this situation, partners have worked on the design and implementation of actions related to training, capacity building and other actions addressed to provide a better knowledge on EMAS, the mechanism behind this scheme and also the performance of EMAS registered organizations.





Working at the local level with a look at Europe

The ENHANCE project has confirmed one of the issues that was already being discussed between various competent bodies, if EMAS is not included in the policy instruments at the European level, it is even more difficult to do so at the state or regional level.

It's therefore crucial to act at EU level in order to be sure that the EU ecomanagement and audit scheme is systematically considered within the development of new directives, regulations or initiatives, or the review of those already existing and finally include EMAS in those that can offer an added value for organizations and the public administration.

Moreover, experience shows that incentives targeted to companies must include a clear financial gain for the companies. That is the most effective for companies as they are pragmatic and profit oriented, and this issue should be considered when providing feedback at EU level.





Lesson

6

EMAS, symbol of responsibility, transparency and commitment

EMAS registration endorses the responsibility with the Sustainable Development it is a brand for responsible and committed organizations.

Buying products and services from EMAS-registered companies contribute to the Sustainable Development and Circular Economy. Furthermore, EMAS provides transparency, while the organizations communicate real and reliable environmental information. EMAS is not a simple logotype, it is a guarantee of commitment with the Environment in a responsible and respectable way and ensures that organizations comply with all environmental legal requirements.



Results & Outputs



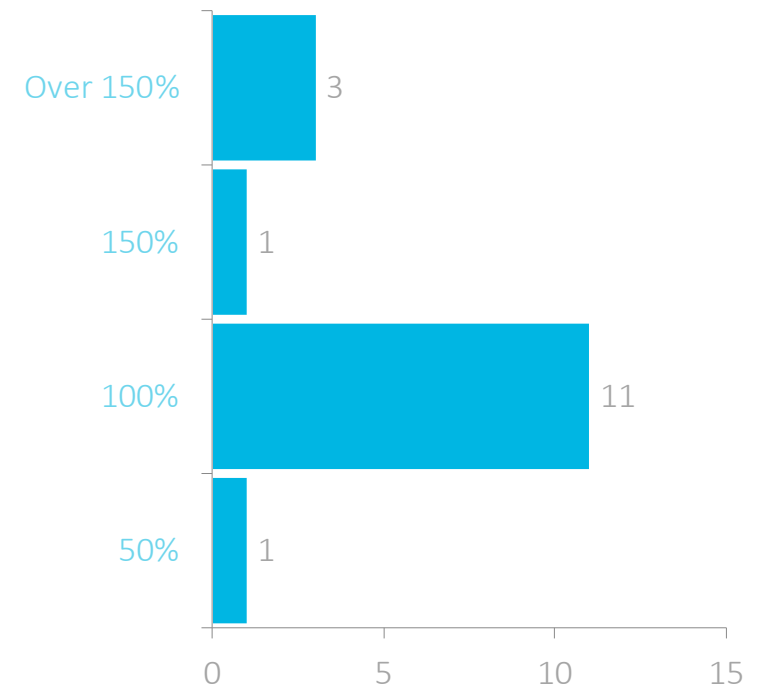
The results indicators are direct effects resulting from the project and the production of its outputs. They represent the changes generated by the project and measure the number of policy changes resulting.

The outputs indicators are the tangible deliverables of the project which contribute to the results. They directly derive from the activities carried out in the project.

This chapter summarises also the main output projects indicators and their level of achievement.



Output project indicators







Result indicators

RESULT INDICATORS & ACHIEVEMENT		TARGET	ACHIEVED
R1	Number of Growth & Jobs and/or ETC programmes where measures inspired by the cooperation were implemented in the field tackled by the project *	4	0
R2	Number of other regional policy instruments where measures inspired by the cooperation were implemented in the field tackled by the project.	2	11
R3	Amount of Structural Funds (from Growth & Jobs and/ or ETC) influenced by the project in the field tackled by the project (in EUR)**	820.000 €	0 €
R4	Amount of other funds influenced by the project in the field tackled by the project (in EUR)**	230.000 €	17.122 €

* **R1** - This indicator is related to Structural Funds programmes and measures the number of operational programmes or cooperation programmes that are influenced thanks to the project.

** **R3, R4** - These indicators measure the amount in euros that was directly influenced by the change introduced by the project (not all policy changes have required financial resources).



Output project indicators

OUTPUT PROJECT INDICATORS & ACHIEVEMENT		TARGET	ACHIEVED
O1	Methodology to assess the feasibility of good practices on supporting EMAS reg.	1	1
O2	Best practices in EMAS Joint Database	60	63
O3	Regional Studies	6	6
O4	Partner meetings	7	12
O5	Thematic workshops	5	5
O6	Stakeholder Meetings	30	30



OUTPUT PROJECT INDICATORS & ACHIEVEMENT		TARGET	ACHIEVED
O7	Interregional meeting	1	1
O8	Regional Studies on the exchange process	6	6
O9	Toward EMAS Action Plans	6	6
O10	Dissemination events	2	7
O11	Newsletters	4	4
O12	Appearances in media	48	89
O13	Stakeholder Groups formally set up	6	6



OUTPUT PROJECT INDICATORS & ACHIEVEMENT		TARGET	ACHIEVED
O14	Practices transferred	30	30
O15	Public officers and professionals who build up their skills and capacities due to their participation in interregional cooperation activities (only persons actively involved in the exchange of experience process)**	300	73

*** **O15** - The value reported under this indicator correspond to the number of people who answered positively to the survey question related to increased professional capacity.



Policy instruments indicators

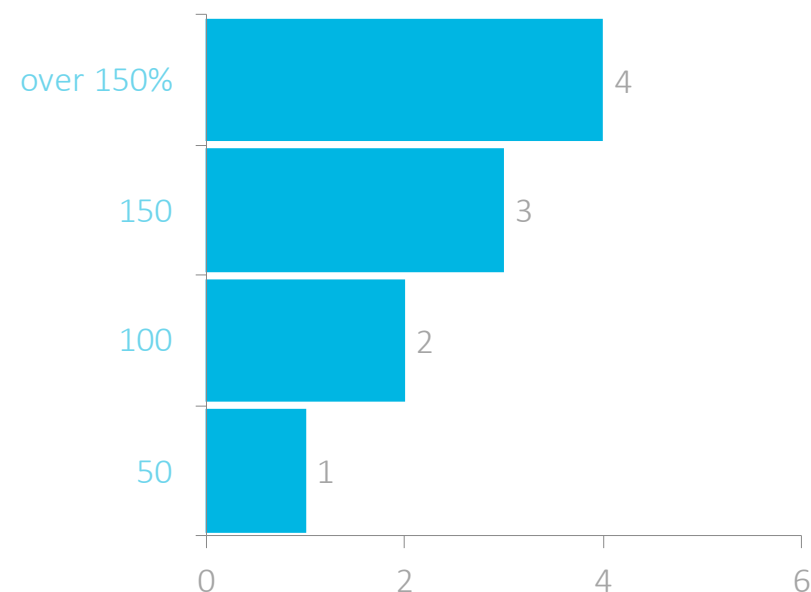
The following table summarises the indicators related to each policy instrument and their level of achievement.

The indicators tell us whether the performance of a regional instrument has improved as a result of the project's actions and consequently of interregional cooperation. The indicators are specific to each regional policy instrument. They tell us beneficiaries are better off thanks of the influence of the project on that regional instrument.

Policy instruments that do not have a specific performance value, is because it has not been possible to measure efficiently the indicators that can validate how the project has influenced that policy instrument.

In case that the project succeeded in influencing another policy instrument, at least one performance indicator has been defined which informs us of the performance of that instrument.

80%
indicators
over 100%





Ministry of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia (Spain)				MTS
POLICY INSTRUMENTS			TARGET	ACHIEVED
P 1A	ERDF operational programme (op) 2014-2020 in Catalonia	% of EMAS-registered SMEs benefiting from the instrument that have reduced and/or simplified their administrative cost and burdens	10	N/A
P 1B	Budget Law of the Government of Catalonia for 2020	Number of EMAS companies that have benefited from the tax and administrative fees reduction	50	47
P 1C	Grants to non-profit organisations, universities, companies and local authorities. Waste Agency of Catalonia	Number of Subsidies granted to EMAS organizations	23	25
		Number of Subsidies granted to EMAS SMEs organizations	16	19

N/A: Data non available in project time frame / N/I: Non-predefined indicator



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain)

RGA

POLICY INSTRUMENTS			TARGET	ACHIEVED
P 2A	Andalusia ERDF operational programme (op) 2014-2020	<i>% of EMAS-registered SMEs benefiting from the instrument that have reduced and/or simplified their administrative cost and burdens</i>	10	N/A
P 2B	Regulatory Bases on Environmental Awards	<i>Number of companies that receive non-financial grant for their registration in EMAS</i>	72	75
P 2C	Andalusian Strategy for Sustainable Development of Marine Aquaculture	<i>Number of companies from aquaculture sector that receive non-financial grant for their registration in EMAS</i>	3	9
P 2D	Budget of the DGCACC in Andalusia	<i>Number of measures for EMAS promotion included in the Budget of DGCACC</i>	1	2

Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (Italy)

SSAA

POLICY INSTRUMENTS			TARGET	ACHIEVED
P 3A	Regional Law n. 31 of 13th August 2007: Organisation of the Region for transparency and quality of contracts and concessions	<i>% of regional procurement procedures that include a reference to EMAS</i>	20	N/A
P 3B	Three Years Regional Plan of Liguria Region on Green Public Procurement	<i>% of tenders with the presence of EMAS as criteria</i>	20	30

N/A: Data non available in project time frame / **N/I:** Non-predefined indicator



Stockholm Environment Institute – Tallinn Centre (Estonia)

SEI

	POLICY INSTRUMENTS		TARGET	ACHIEVED
P 4A	Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014-2020 in Estonia	<i>% of EMAS-registered SMEs benefiting from the instrument and have increased their resource and energy efficiency</i>	15	N/A
P 4B	Estonia Waste Act	<i>Number of new EMAS companies</i>	1	2
		<i>Number of companies in the process of implementing EMAS</i>	2	6
P 4C	Estonia Energy Sector Organisation Act	<i>Number of large companies in the process of implementing EMAS</i>	1	1

N/A: Data non available in project time frame / **N/I:** Non-predefined indicator



Czech Environmental Information Agency (Czech Republic)

CENIA

POLICY INSTRUMENTS			TARGET	ACHIEVED
P 5A	Czech Republic Government Resolution dated 19 June 2002, N. 651 - National program EMAS	<i>Number of national strategic documents that include a reference to EMAS</i>	20	9
P 5B	State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2030	<i>Non-predefined indicator in 2020</i>	N/I	N/A

Environment Agency Austria (Austria)

EAA

POLICY INSTRUMENTS			TARGET	ACHIEVED
P 6A	Austria ERDF operational programme (op) 2014-2020	<i>More EMAS registrations in West Austria within the next 4 years</i>	15	32
P 6B	Austria Industry Act	<i>Non-predefined indicator in 2020</i>	N/I	N/A

N/A: Data non available in project time frame / **N/I:** Non-predefined indicator



What's next?

Having worked with other interested parties, has bound a joint process of analysis and reflection that is probably one of the major legacies of the project. It is expected that each partner can maintain the network beyond the project time frame as a way of working that allows progress in policies and processes.

Project partners, are willing to continue to meet and discuss about potential common future initiatives and to have the opportunity to work again on the broad topic of Environmental Certifications and Green Public Procurement as tools to develop Circular Economy.



Catalonia continues to work with its stakeholders and in particular with the Waste Agency of Catalonia and the Service of Information, Inspection and Environmental Control of Activities of the Directorate-General for Environmental Quality and Climate Change (DGQACC).

The project has strengthened relations with these two units of the administration and will continue the collaboration initiated for the recognition of EMAS-registered organizations in the field of inspection.

Moreover, the inclusion of EMAS in the scoring criteria of the Catalan Waste Agency's subsidies for the promotion of the circular economy has been consolidated.

The DGQACC is also working to promote EMAS in the field of public procurement. A first step has been the development of the "Guide for the promotion of EMAS in public procurement", which is expected to be approved in the first half of 2021.

In Italy, SSSA is really committed with its main stakeholder Liguria Region to go on working on the Environmental Certifications enhancement (including EMAS) and on the GPP tool to spread the Eco-certifications adoption and to green the private market, through the activity of Public Authority.

The staffs from the two organizations are already working on a possible continuation for the collaboration on the topics mentioned. Moreover, SSSA was already mentioned in by LR officers in public events as a partner to discuss with the next Three-year Regional Action Plan on GPP, that, indeed, is the consequent policy instrument of the one stressed by ENHANCE activities.



In Estonia the collaboration will continue with the established network mainly via Estonian Association of Environmental Management (EKJA) that brings together both enterprises (including EMAS registered organizations), EMAS verifiers and environmental management consultants.

This cooperation has been an integral part of ENHANCE project. There will also be a continuation of the cooperation between EKJA and Estonian Ministry of the Environment (as a policy-maker), which is based on the voluntary agreement that includes participation in the development of measures and activities for supporting EMAS implementation in Estonia.

Besides the actions included in the action plan, Estonia has already initiated a new measure based on the best practices of Austria and others that involve enhancing the knowledge and competences to implement EMAS, especially in the public sector. It has been decided that during 2021 a training series will be carried in particular to the public sector on how to implement EMAS.

Another future development from the project is to continue collaborating among the partners in order to monitor EU initiatives and revision of directives in order to have an effective influence at EU level. In this way, partners will be able to overcome one of the barriers identified within the project.

Partners will exploit the results of interregional cooperation and make them available to a wider audience of regional policy stakeholders for example the group of EMAS CB and others. In the case of Estonia, SEI has an agreement with Estonian Competence Body (Environmental Agency) and Estonian Ministry of the Environment to continue with the promotion of EMAS and developing additional measures that support EMAS registered companies.

The Czech Republic will definitely maintain the set communication. As it turned out, the stakeholders consider it as a useful to be involved to the whole process and also be informed about the news in this area.



Reference document files

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/enhance/library/>

	REGIONAL STUDIES	REGIONAL STUDIES ON THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES
MTS	file_1520855998.pdf	file_1553094344.pdf
RGA	file_1520853649.pdf	file_1554818877.pdf
SSSA	file_1520856085.pdf	file_1553094593.pdf
SEI	file_1520856148.pdf	file_1553094553.pdf
CENIA	file_1520855684.pdf	file_1553094507.pdf
EAA	file_1520853735.pdf	file_1553094426.pdf



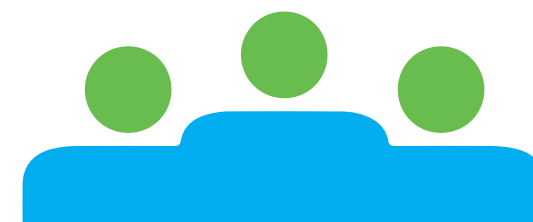
[Selection of Good Practices](#)



[Join data base of good practices](#)

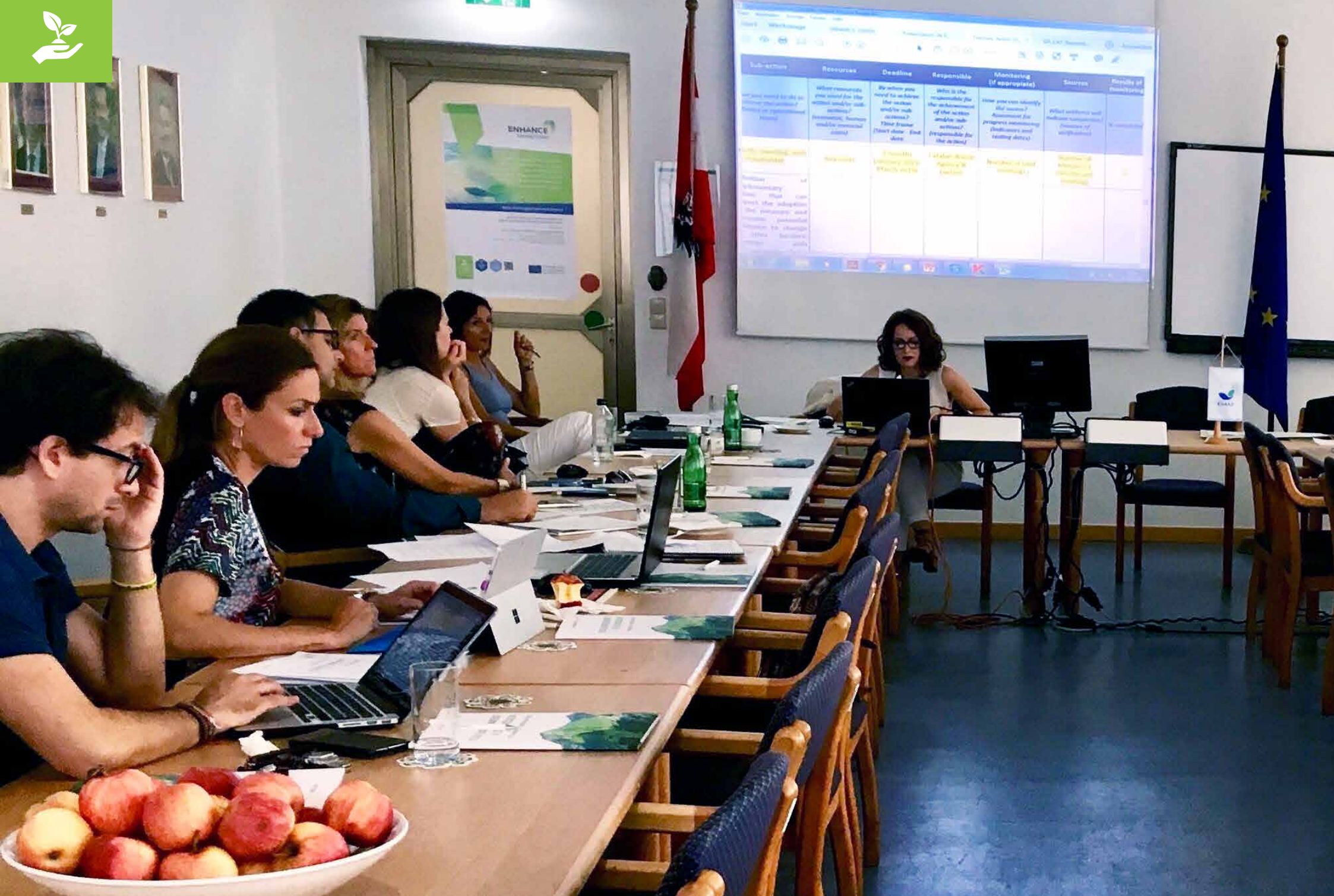


[Action Plans](#)



Contact details

PARTNER	COUNTRY	CONTACT	
 MTS Ministry of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia	Spain	VIRGINIA FERRER-VIDAL virginia.ferrervidal@gencat.cat	JOSEP MARIA MASIP josepmaria.masip@gencat.cat
 RGA Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Regional Government of Andalusia	Spain	INMACULADA TOLA enhanceandalucia.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es inmaculada.tola@juntadeandalucia.es	ANDRÉS LEAL andresj.leal@juntadeandalucia.es
 SSSA Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies	Italy	TIBERIO DADDI tiberio.daddi@santannapisa.it	FABIO IANNONE fabio.iannone@santannapisa.it
 SEI Stockholm Environment Institute - Tallinn Centre	Estonia	EVELIN PIIRSALU evelin.piirsalu@sei.org	
 CENIA Czech Environmental Information Agency	Czech Republic	JANA SAJDOKOVA jana.sajdokova@cenia.cz	
 EAA Environment Agency Austria	Austria	MONIKA BROM monika.brom@umweltbundesamt.at	



Sub-action	Resources	Deadline	Responsible	Monitoring (if appropriate)	Source	Results of financing
we need to do to achieve the purpose? (focus on government level)	When resources you need for the action and/or sub-actions? (economic, human and/or material assets)	By when you need to achieve the action and/or sub-actions? Time frame (start date - end date)	Who is the responsible for the achievement of the action and/or sub-actions? (responsible for the action)	How you can identify the success? Assessment for progress monitoring (indicators and testing dates)	What activities will achieve the success? (nature of investment)	What results will be achieved?
What resources you need for the action and/or sub-actions?	When resources you need for the action and/or sub-actions?	By when you need to achieve the action and/or sub-actions?	Who is the responsible for the achievement of the action and/or sub-actions?	How you can identify the success?	What activities will achieve the success?	What results will be achieved?
What resources you need for the action and/or sub-actions?	When resources you need for the action and/or sub-actions?	By when you need to achieve the action and/or sub-actions?	Who is the responsible for the achievement of the action and/or sub-actions?	How you can identify the success?	What activities will achieve the success?	What results will be achieved?



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**EMAS as a nest to help and
nurture the Circular Economy**