

State of EMAS in Cyprus in the Framework of Environmental Performance

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Abstract

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is one of the main management instruments developed by the European Commission for companies and other organizations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance. According to European Commission until September 2018, sixty-two new organizations registered with EMAS, by increasing the number of organizations and sites to 3814 and 13205 in whole Europe.

In the Framework of BRAVER Life Project (LIFE15 ENV/IT/000509, co funded from EU), which aims to support the full integration of EMAS in the regulatory framework of EU Member States, a questionnaire was given to EMAS registered organizations in order to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implementation of the environmental management system in their activities.

The aim of this study was to analyze the results of the questionnaire in five different type of organization (different NACE code) a public authority, a food industry, a mine, a construction company and a hotel. The questionnaire was divided in 5 sectors and the main object of it, was to assess whether the implementation of the EMAS is an asset for an organization or lead to the increase of bureaucracy and administrative burdens.

The results indicates that the environmental performance for those organizations changed over the last years in a specific areas, such as optimization of energy efficiency, control of water consumption, minimized and control the waste production, protect biodiversity, control noise emission, etc. Both, the assessment for Private Sector Organizations and Public Bodies Sector indicates similarities. Furthermore, from the survey audit was clear that EMAS implementation was a tool that help the organizations to improve their internal and external communications as well as they have improved, monitored and controlled their environmental aspects.

Key words: *EMAS, environmental performance*