European Institute for Cultural Tourism EUREKA
3-B-2 Polkovnik Drangov Str.
Dobrich 9300 , Bulgaria
e-mail: eureka@mail.bg

Mare Nostrum NGO
3-17-A 1 December 1918 Blvd
Constanta 900711, Romania
e-mail:office@marenostrum.ro
www.marenostrum.ro

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dobrich
3, Bulgaria St.
Dobrich 9300, Bulgaria
e-mail: cci@dobrich.net
www.cci.dobrich.net

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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA

BULGARIA
DOBRICH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PROJECT

"IMPROVED AWARENESS OF THE CROSS BORDER TOURISM CLUSTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION"

EMAS - Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

EMAS

Improving your environmental and business performance

ROMANIA - BULGARIA
Cross Border Cooperation Programme

Common borders. Common solutions.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IS A BUSINESS IMPERATIVE

The growth of the world economy and the rising global population (9 billion by 2050) mean that the Earth's natural resources are being used up fast. Resources such as water, soil, clean air and ecosystem services are vital for our health and quality of life, but they are only available in limited supplies. Growing competition for certain resources will create scarcities and rising prices, which will affect the economy. Resources need to be managed more efficiently throughout their lifecycle, from extraction, transport, transformation and consumption, to the disposal of waste.

That is why the Commission is pushing for "resource efficiency". This means producing more value using less material and consuming differently. This will limit the risks of scarcity and keep environmental impacts within our planet's natural limits. It is an overarching idea that applies to all natural resources from food, timber, and biodiversity to metals, soil, water, minerals, the atmosphere and land. Making Europe more resource efficient is a route to achieving economic, social and environmental policy goals more easily, more securely, and at lower cost.

WHAT IS RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

We need to use the Earth's limited resources in a more sustainable way. "Resource efficiency" means producing more value using less resource materials and different consumption. This will limit the risk of shortages and environmental impacts will be kept within the limits that are natural to our planet. Our society depends on metals, minerals, fuel, water, timber, fertile soil and clean air, which all constitute vital inputs to keep our economy functioning. But we have been using up these limited resources much faster than they can be replenished and significant shortages will ensue unless we change our approach.

POLICIES AND MEASURES FOR ACHIEVING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

In recent decades, changing patterns of resource use have shown that progress on resource efficiency is perfectly possible. Over the last 20 years, recycling has become standard practice for both businesses and households across the EU, with major consequences for industries like paper, glass and resource extraction. EU-level legislation has also lowered carbon emissions: since 1990, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU have fallen by more than 10%, while Europe's economies have grown by about 40% over the same period.

THE POLICY BACKGROUND: EUROPE 2020

Resource efficiency is a key component of Europe 2020, the EU's strategy for building growth and jobs over the next ten years. The strategy aims to encourage economic growth that is:

1. Smart (based on knowledge and innovation),

2. Sustainable (green growth will be more sustainable in the longer term), and

3. Inclusive (because high rates of employment deliver improved social and territorial cohesion).

The strategy's seven flagship objectives include a resource-efficient Europe initiative which provides a long-term framework for action, supporting policy agendas for environment and climate change, energy, transport, industry, agriculture, fisheries and regional development. The aim is to enhance certainty for investment and innovation and to create opportunities for sustainable economic growth by ensuring that all relevant policy areas factor in resource efficiency in a consistent mann

FIVE GOLDEN RULES FOR MAXIMISING ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE MITIGATING PRESSURE ON THE RESOURCE BASE:

SAVE: take existing opportunities for resource savings wherever possible - some EU economies are 16 times more efficient than others;

RECYCLE: increase the recycling of materials and the reuse of elements in products (mobile phones are a recent example);

SUBSTITUTE: replace primary resource inputs with alternatives that offer greater efficiency and which have lower environmental impacts throughout their life cycle (by phasing out mercury, for example);

REDUCE: dematerialise how we meet people's needs, through new business models or goods and services with lower resource inputs. Examples include reducing the weight of vehicles, or downloading music and entertainment legally from the internet rather than buying a solid object like a DVD.

VALUE: policy-makers need to find ways of bringing the proper value of natural resources into consideration in decisions, enabling the improved management of our natural resource base. Learning to value - and to put a price on - ecosystem services and natural resources will ease the pressure on the environment.

BENEFITS FROM RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

There are benefits on numerous fronts.

- Growth and job creation will result through new business opportunities. The construction sector, ecosystem and resource management, renewable energy, eco-industries and recycling all have a particularly high potential for employment growth.
- Economic stability will increase, as resource efficiency is a way to tackle security of supply issues and market volatility in critical resources. This is important for European consumers, and for those sectors that depend on rare earth metals, fresh water, fish and food.
- Better resource efficiency will sustain the economic health of key sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The EU industries that use their output rely on available stocks of land, soil, water and biodiversity, so higher efficiency will bring greater rewards. Adjusting to global changes in the pressures on resources will also improve long-term economic competitiveness.
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- Switching to a low-carbon economy will help prevent dangerous climate change, and bring numerous additional benefits. This can be done through the further development of existi

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND GUIDELINES IN BULGARIA

Environmental protection is one of the main priorities identified at national, European and international level. With regard to Bulgaria's membership in the European Union the number of key environmental changes were initiated prior to full membership and beyond. Currently, the main objectives of the Bulgarian policy on the environment, as set out in the Law on Environmental Protection of 2002 (amended in 2009) include:

1. Environmental protection and the protection of human health;
2. Conservation of biodiversity in accordance with natural biogeographical characteristics of Bulgaria;
3. Control and management factors damaging the environment;
4. Prevention and control of pollution and environmental condition;
5. Establishment and management of the National System for Environmental Monitoring;
6. Developing environmental strategies, programs and plans;
7. Management activities to protect the environment at international, national and regional level;
8. Determination of the state rights and obligations, municipalities and individuals in terms of environmental protection.

The districts of Dobrich and Constanta belong to the eastern part of the Danube lowland. This border area is different from the rest of Europe with its outstanding features such as geographic location, proximity to the Black Sea, structure of the soil and climate, ancient history, the formation of characteristic flora and fauna and its unique mix of elements with southern origin in the Pontic, Ponto-Caspian, Black Sea, European and Eurasian species that shapes the unique biodiversity of this region. The Lower Danube is the only area of ▫▫the European Union with typical steppe landscapes.

An important attraction in the region is the worldwide bird migration corridor "Via Pontica".

Nowadays, the environmental awareness and conservation of biodiversity of each region is urgently needed.

PROTECTED AREAS IN DOBRICH REGION

Protected area" in Bulgaria is a general term including all parks, reserves and protected areas. Preservation policy and management of protected areas is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and its authorities in the regions. Management and protection of protected areas that are not state-owned is the task of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

- „Kaliakra" was declared for national park in 1941, and since 1966 belongs to the group of protected areas in the country category I - strict nature reserve. Kaliakra Reserve and surrounding areas include:
  - The only protected marine area in Bulgaria;
  - The only larger residue in Bulgaria, similar to the natural steppe;
  - A variety of habitats, including rocky shore steppe, forest, trucks, grasslands and marine area, determining the diversity of habitats;
  - Notable historical, archaeological monuments and legends;
  - Sole habitat for local plant and endemic plant species
  - An important ecological niche for endangered, rare and endemic species
  - Animal organisms of different systematic groups: fish, birds, small mammals, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.

Kaliakra Cape located in the easternmost point of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is one of the most popular intermediate stops for the most migratory birds.

- **Maintained reserve "Baltata"**

The reserve covers the northernmost dense forest in Bulgaria at the mouth of the Batovska River formed by karst springs. Baltata is located near the Albena resort. The intensive urbanization and tourism development and expansion of the local water leads to fragmentation, disruption and even destruction of habitats, mainly in the coastal zone, but also in open areas on the plateau. Out of all 116 species of medicinal plants seven are medicinal plants of conservation.

- **Maintained reserve "Yalata"**

The maintained reserve "Yalata" is comprehensive protected area of archaeological, bio, zoological interest, particularly impressive due to the steep limestone cliffs 70-80 meters height. In the territory of the reserve there are several types of habitats of particular interest: steppe grass, thickets, forest species, sea cliffs, sea caves. These areas house many rare species of flora and fauna.

- **To the protected areas and areas in Bulgaria included in NATURA 2000 belong:**
  - Durankulak Lake
  - Shabla Lake Complex
  - Kaliakra
  - Balchik
  - Batova
  - White Rocks

Durankulak Lake

PROTECTED AREAS IN THE DISTRICT OF CONSTANTA

- **Rocks of Harshova - Dobrudzha**

This protected natural area includes Jurassic limestone cliffs with specific landscape. The reserve cliffs on Harshova are characterized by good representation of rocky habitats (limestone), which combine typical flora and fauna.

- **Keilah Dobrodzhey / Dobrogea Gorges / - Constanta**

Keilah Dobrodzhey is located on the right side of the valley Kasimcha in Constanta district, 45 km northwest of the city of Constanta. There are landscapes of rare beauty - natural striations ditches steep banks of the river, caves carved in limestone, as in "La Adam" and bat caves with rare species and important archaeological discoveries. The reserve consists of limestone from the Jurassic period; there are flora and fauna of special interest.

- **Kanaraua Fethiye "Maiden Rock"**

Forest Kanaraua Fethiye - South of the city Baneasa and north of the border with Bulgaria is natural, zoological and botanical reserve Kanaraua Fethiye area of 172.1 hectares. Center of the reserve is represented by a large valley - the valley Kanaraua Fethiye with a kind of canyon, with limestone walls up to 40 meters high, crossed by cracks, gaps, holes, sometimes even caves. The existing climate and karst topography allowes concentration in a relatively small part of the many types of plants (about 1000 species of plants, representing 27% of the Romanian flora and fauna) protected natural area, including many rare species of Mediterranean, Balkan and Pontian origin.

- **National Park Munz Machin / Machin Mountains /**

Munz Machin is a mountain group belonging to Munz Dobrodzhey / Dobrudja mountains.

ECO TOURISM – THE SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TO MASS TOURISM

Thanks to the development of transport and information technology, more and more remote areas become accessible, which contributed to the rapid development of tourism in areas with nature. It is increasingly clear that the development of tourism in protected natural areas, lack of proper management, can pose a threat to the integrity of ecosystems and local communities. Increasingly the number of visitors to the affected areas can lead to severe damage of the environment. Also, local communities and local culture can be negatively affected by increased flow of foreign visitors with a modern lifestyle. Moreover, climate change, economic instability and political and social conditions can make tourism a risky business, especially in areas heavily dependent on it.

The rise of tourism creates many opportunities for conservation, and the welfare of local communities. In response to the increased interest to explore nature and the alarming signals coming from remote corners of the world, a gradually new ethic journey called ecotourism is emerging. Ecotourism can provide much-needed revenue for the protection of national parks and other natural areas, revenue can not be obtained from other sources. Also, tourism can be a viable alternative to the economic development of communities with limited activities that generate income. Moreover, ecotourism can improve education and awareness of the tourists, they become enthusiastic supporters of the natural environment and cultural preservation.

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

The way we produce, use and dispose of goods is unsustainable and is rapidly depleting our planet's natural resources. Our quality of life, prosperity and economic growth depend on living within ecological limits. The EU is committed to sustainable development, growth and jobs. Achieving this means promoting better products, more efficient production methods and improved consumption patterns.

DOING MORE WITH LESS
If people in the rest of the world lived European lifestyles it would take the resources of two and a half planets to support them.

Continued economic growth, changes in lifestyles and the increasing use of technologies have resulted in greater demand for products and services. The simple fact is that by using our natural and energy resources inefficiently, we are producing more waste than we can recycle as a useful resource, and are contributing to climate change. In recent decades, progress has been made in addressing the environmental impacts of consumption and production: air quality has improved, waste and industrial pollution are better controlled, products are more efficient and consumers are better informed.

These are steps in the right direction, but more drastic measures are needed in the face of huge environmental challenges such as climate change and the rapid loss of natural resources and biodiversity.

Fundamental changes are needed in how natural resources are extracted and the way products are produced, distributed, used and disposed of. Action is needed at all levels of society — from individuals and industry to central and local government — in order to reverse current trends and live within ecological limits.

The European Commission launched an action plan on sustainable consumption and production and on sustainable industrial policy that builds on and strengthens existing policies and puts forward new measures and actions.

It proposes a dynamic framework to improve the energy and environmental performance of products, create demand for better products and help consumers make better choices. Measures include ambitious product standards for eco-design, green public purchasing, eco-labelling and eco-innovation. Actions address better products and smarter consumption, leaner production and global markets for sustainable products.

The products we buy and use every day have a significant impact on the environment, from the materials used in their production, to the energy needed to use them and the waste they create once obsolete. If modern society is to be sustainable in the long term, products that cause the least environmental impact need to become the accepted standard in all sectors. Phasing out a product that use excessive energy or water resources or that contains hazardous materials is an important first step. Addressing the environmental aspects of product design has been successfully used to ban refrigerators and aerosols containing ozonedepleting chemicals, such as CFCs, and reduce the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in paints and solvents. The directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances (RoHS), which is designed to minimise the environmental impact of waste electrical and electronic equipment, ensures that manufacturers do not use materials or components that contain restricted substances.

BETTER PRODUCTS
Energy consumption in the EU is likely to increase by 9 %

RESPONSIBLE AND EMPOWERED CONSUMERS
Households in Europe are major contributors to environmental problems such as climate change, air pollution, water pollution, land use and waste

The design phase of a product is crucial. New minimum product standards need to be developed to reduce the impact of goods on the environment. The European Commission plans to extend compulsory eco-design requirements — already in place for 'energy-using' products such as household appliances — to 'energy-related' products that have environmental impacts during their use, for example windows or water-distribution devices. Green public procurement

(see box) is one way to drive demand for the best performing products by mobilizing the considerable buying power of public authorities. It can give important signals to the market, encouraging innovation and paving the way for mass-market take-up of more sustainable products.

Although environmental awareness is increasing, most people find it difficult to relate their personal consumption habits to large-scale problems such is climate change. To reverse current unsustainable trends, consumers need to be well informed, empowered and feel that their actions make a difference.

People need clear and better information about which changes in their spending habits will have the biggest impact. They need to know which are the best performing products, how to make the most efficient use of them and the cleanest ways to dispose of them.

A number of labelling systems have been introduced to inform consumers. The European eco-label, with its flower logo, identifies products with the best environmental performance in several different product groups. The scheme is being revised to make it more attractive to businesses and consumers.

Another example is the EU energy label, which helps consumers identify the most energy efficient kitchen appliances and light bulbs.

Several large retail chains and producers are already reducing waste, providing environmental information on goods and selling more sustainable products. Their initiatives will be reinforced through a Europe-wide Retail Forum aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of the retail sector and its supply chain, promoting more sustainable products and providing better information for customers.

Design plays a crucial role in the environmental performance of products throughout their lives. The EU's directive on eco-design of energyusing products (EuP) provides a framework for establishing minimum requirements for everyday products that account for a large proportion of total energy use. Products currently being assessed include street, office and home lighting, water boilers and televisions.

LEANER PRODUCTION

The way we produce goods and the efficiency of the products we use has a direct link to the challenges of climate change and the use of natural resources

The Commission proposes to extend these requirements to energy-related products, which would make it possible to target priority product sectors such as water-using devices and building materials.

In addition, a number of labelling schemes exist at EU level to enable consumers to identify the most effi cient products, such as those for electrical appliances. These will be extended to a wider range of products and environmental impacts in future.

"FLOWER" POWER

With its distinctive flower logo, the EU eco-label is a clear way to help consumers make environment friendly choices when they choose products and services ranging from washing powder to campsites.

Products have to meet a set of strict environmental criteria to qualify for the ecolabel logo. The scheme has expanded since its introduction in 1992, and now covers 26 product groups, including textiles, paints, paper, detergents, household appliances and services such as tourist accommodation.

The revised scheme will place a stronger focus on products and services with the most significant environmental impacts and the highest potential for improvement. It will also reduce bureaucracy and simplify criteria, allowing the number of product groups covered by the label to increase.

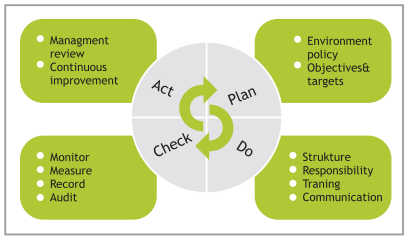
THE EU ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME (EMAS)

What is **EMAS?**

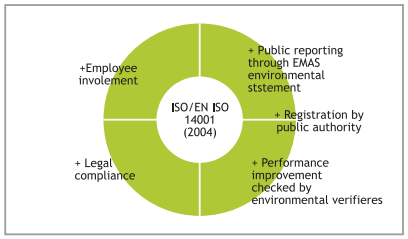
The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate report and improve their environmental performance.

EMAS III, the latest revision of the EMAS Regulation, which came into force on 11 January 2010, introduces several new elements which improve the applicability and credibility of the scheme and strengthen its visibility and outreach. EMAS is the most credible and robust environmental management system (EMS) on the market, adding several elements on top of the requirements of the international standard for environmental management systems EN ISO 14001:2004 (Hereafter: ISO 14001).

EMAS follows a Systematic "Plan-Do-Check-Act" Approach



EMAS upgrades ISO 14001 as follows:



- **EMAS superior quality rests upon:**
- Stricter requirements on the measurement and evaluation of environmental
- Performance against objectives and targets, and the continuous improvement of that environmental performance;
- Compliance with environmental legislation ensured by government supervision;
- Strong employee involvement;
- Environmental core indicators creating multi-annual comparability within and between organisations
- Provision of information to the general public through the validated environmental statement; and
- Registration by a public authority after verification by an accredited/ licensed environmental verifier.

EMAS is designed to help organisations improve their environmental performance while simultaneously enhancing their competitiveness, e.g. through a more efficient use of resources.

Who can participate in EMAS?

EMAS is applicable in all sectors and open to all types of organisations in the public and private sector that seek to improve their environmental performance.

With the introduction of EMAS III, the scheme allows Member States to enable EMAS registration for organisations from outside the EU (EMAS Global).

The EMAS easy methodology even enables the introduction of the scheme in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with few financial and human resources or limited in-house expertise. The revised audit cycles improve the scheme's applicability for SMEs. The possibility for a single corporate registration lowers administrative and financial burdens for organisations with several sites. For local authorities, EMAS helps streamlining environmental activities and requirements, e.g. in administration, construction, health and education.

A stepwise implementation of EMAS

In order to be able to benefit from EMAS registration, an organisation should carry out the following steps:

1. Conduct an environmental review

The organisation needs to conduct a verified initial environmental review, considering all environmental aspects of the organisation's activities, products and services, methods to assess them, the organisation's legal and regulatory framework and existing environmental management practices and procedures.

2. Adopt an environmental policy

Registration to EMAS requires an organisation to adopt an environmental policy and to commit itself both to compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and to achieving continuous improvement in its environmental performance.

3. Establish an EMS

Based on the results of the environmental review and the policy (objectives), an EMS needs to be established. The EMS is aimed at achieving the organisation's environmental policy objectives as defined by the top management. The management system needs to set responsibilities, objectives, means, operational procedures, training needs, monitoring and communication systems.

4. Carry out an internal environmental audit

After the EMS is established an environmental audit should be carried out. The audit assesses in particular if the management system is in place and in conformity with the organisation's policy and programme. The audit also checks if the organisation is in compliance with relevant environmental regulatory requirements.

5. Prepare an environmental statement

The organisation needs to provide a public statement of its environmental performance. The environmental statement lays down the results achieved against the environmental objectives and the future steps to be undertaken in order to continuously improve the organisation's environmental performance.

6. Independent verification by an EMAS verifier

An EMAS verifier accredited with an EMAS accreditation body of a Member State must examine and verify the environmental review, the EMS, the audit procedure and the environmental statement.

7. Register with the Competent Body of the Member State

The validated statement is sent to the appropriate EMAS Competent Body for registration and made publicly available.

8. Utilize the verified environmental statement

The environmental statement can be used to report performance data in marketing, assessment of the supply chain and procurement. The organisation can use information from the validated statement to market its activities with the EMAS logo, assess suppliers against EMAS requirements and give preference to suppliers registered under EMAS.

What are the benefits of participating in EMAS?

EMAS brings many benefits to organisations participating in the scheme. These include:

Enhanced environmental and financial performance

- High quality environmental management
- Resource efficiency and lower costs

Enhanced risk and opportunity management

- Guarantee of full regulatory compliance with environmental legislation
- Reduced risk of fines related to environmental legislation
- Regulatory relief
- Access to deregulation incentives

Enhanced credibility, reputation and transparency

- Independently validated environmental information
- Use of the EMAS Logo as a marketing tool
- Increased business opportunities in markets where green production processes are important
- Better relations with customers, the local and wider community, and regulators

Enhanced employee empowerment and motivation

- Improved workplace environment
- Enhanced employee commitment
- Greater team-building capacity

Together these points lead to three distinguishing features of EMAS:

PERFORMANCE

CREDIBILITY

TRANSPARENCY

A number of EU Member States provide financial incentives for EMAS organisations. For example, depending on where they are located, EMAS organisations may benefit from longer inspection intervals, reduction of permit fees, fast lane permits and improved access to funding. For more information please contact the national Competent Body in your Member State.

ERCEIRA MAR HOTEL****

Respecting local community and environment

Participation in EMAS since 2004

Country: Portugal

Sector: Hospitality

Number of employees: 73

Website:

www.bensaude.pt/bensaude/hoteis/ver.aspx?hotel=12&lingua=3

The four star hotel Terceira Marin is located in the Azores. It comprises of 281 beds. Perfectly integrated in a beautiful natural landscape, the Terceira Mar Hotel can demonstrate to its clients and collaborators its pride and satisfaction in respecting the nature and local community.

The hotel is part of the Bensaude Group which focuses on the potential of tourism development in the Azores, while at the same time promoting a high-quality tourism which preserves a human dimension, and respects the geographical, environmental, social and cultural characteristics of the Azores. It thus contributes to the economic development at regional level and the well being of the local population.

Why EMAS?

The decision to join EMAS was based on the philosophy of the Bensaude Group to respect local conditions in the Azores. The management decided to implement an Environmental Management System in accordance with the ISO 14001 standard and with EMAS because the schemes allow the management to identify and address the environmental concerns relevant to the hotel industry.

Apart from the tangible result of reduction in resource consumption the environmental efforts have also increased the credibility of the Bensaude Group and the employees' pride and motivation concerning the Group's respect of nature and the island community. The Environmental Statement constitutes a very useful tool to inform the Community in which the Hotel is located about the activities of the organisation.

Benefits of EMAS implementation

In order to minimise environmental impacts some planned construction activities were modified and the hotel invested in specific equipment. For example, a refrigerated storeroom for organic residues was created and a reservoir collecting rain water provides the garden irrigation. Other improvements include a technical management centre to monitor energy consumption, an outdoor swimming pool fed with sea water, as well as pumping stations to convey waste water to the municipal sewage system.

The environmental impacts categorised as significant include:

- Energy and water consumption
- Production of waste (including hazardous waste)
- Consumption of hazardous substances and paper
- Noise
- Sewage and liquid waste

In 2004, in comparison with 2003, the resource consumption has improved as follows:

- Water consumed per room decreased by 22.5%
- Electricity consumed per room decreased by 38.11%
- Diesel consumed per room decreased by 27.49%
- Butane consumption was reduced by 5.77%
- The number of chemical products used in the hotel was reduced from 99 to 88
- Quantities used were reduced by 35.43%

Challenges encountered in applying EMAS

In 2003 the main difficulties encountered were related to the lack of available comparable information from the hotel industry, since the implementation of EMAS in this sector was new in Portugal.

ISLE OF ALBARELLA - ITALY

EMAS: A Style of Life to Create Added Value

Organization's name: Comprensorio Turistico Isola di Albarella

Country: Italy

Sector: Tourism

Registration under EMAS since 2006

Number of employees: 45

Web site: www.albarella.it

Albarella is an exclusive private island, property of the family Marcegaglia, situated within the Po Delta Nature Reserve in the south of Venice. The Island of Albarella was conceived as a protected and private area, where the key elements are the close contact to nature, animals in the wild, peace and silence. In order to maintain this relaxing landscape, the entrance to the island has always been limited. However, the island is mostly a touristic area rigged with any kind of sport facilities, among the others golf and tennis courts.

The Marcegaglia Tourism Group of Albarella aims to propose the island as European benchmark in the touristic sector. In order to pursue this objective the Group relays on an organization whose collaborators have made their important principals such as integrity, professionalism, sensibility towards clients and the environment.

Some of the important aspects of the Group's environmental policy consist in:

- Constant information and promotion of environmental friendly practices and services
- Involvement of guests in eco-activities in order to diffuse a more respectful behavior towards the environment and its beauties
- Development of initiatives to promote the territory and its typical products within a view of sustainable development
- Integration of all activities in the island with the native fauna and flora of the surrounding territory
- For the golf courts only products authorized by the Section Turfy Carpets of the National School of Golf (Sezione Tappeti Erbosi - Scuola Nazionale di Golf) are used and marginal areas are designated to the reimplantation of arboreous species

Why EMAS?

The well-trimmed landscape, the fallow deers, pheasants and ducks that accompany the players on the golf fields, the rich Mediterranean forests surrounding

the island underline the great importance the environment has for the attractiveness of Albarella. The EMAS registration enables the company to better control and improve its own environmental performances and to maintain the beautiful nature of the island. Thus, EMAS contributes to develop a method of objectives, actions and results that becomes a style of life, in the sense that it becomes part of the way to be of those (collaborators, staff, clients) who directly and indirectly have to deal with it.

- Purchase of ecologic products for 20% of the total until 2009. Products such as paper is marked Eco-label;
- 2,000 kg of materials containing asbestos on 20,300 m2 of covers have been dismantled;
- Installation of photovoltaic panels is planned
- 3,200 bicycles are on the service of the guests and initiatives are supported in order to promote use of bicycles within the island.

An overall appraisal Benefits of the implementation of EMAS

Thanks to the EMAS registration, the Direction of Albarella has developed a more careful analysis of consumptions and use of energy that induced it to adopt more environmentalrelated actions:

- The island's purification plant has been renovated. Deposit pools have been built and replaced a drop system of water distribution. Less powerful pumps could be then installed. In this way the Direction aims to produce positive effects on consumption of energy;
- The island's harbour Marina di Albarella bears the "Blue Flag" of the landings, an environmental recognition assigned by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE - www.feeitalia.org) to those landings that carry out a good management and guarantee good quality services in the respect of the environment;
- In order to minimise environmental impacts, the new houses have been built with ecological criteria. For example every house is provided by a reservoir collecting rain water for the garden irrigation and by a water reducer device in the shower;
- the public lighting net has been completely revamping in order to reduce the electric energy consumption.

Challenges encountered in applying EMAS

The main difficulties encountered were related to the lack of available comparable information from the tourist industry, since the implementation of EMAS in this sector was quite new in Italy. Moreover, the establishment of objectives and targets was constrained by the short period of operation of the Island and the high turn over of the operators makes the implementation of the Environmental Management System more difficult. The next challenge of Albarella Island will be to mainly involve the clients and the owners.

Main environmental improvements

In the island of Albarella, use of energy, waste production, emissions and use of GPL are strongly connected to the number of tourists registered during the year. It is therefore very difficult to make an absolute comparison between the values registered in the different years. However, at the beginning of the EMAS registration, the Direction imposed itself important objectives. The main results realised in the triennial 2005-2007 are:

- An increased by 7,8% of differential waste that passed from 35,5% to 43,3%, this in respect to an augment in the units of waste produced (3,177t in 2005 against 3,624t in 2007)
- Introduction of criteria of bio-building in the construction of new houses and villas; systems to recover rainwater for the irrigation of gardens;

For more information about EMAS and the case studies,
please visit the following website:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/