



EMAS Regulation in Italian Clusters: Investigating the Involvement of Local Stakeholders

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ABSTRACT

Ever since its first version, the EMAS Regulation has represented a point of reference for enterprises seeking to continuously improve their environmental performances. The literature on this topic is quite abundant but has concentrated, until now, mostly on the determination of the effectiveness of the scheme, leaving out other aspects as the involvement of the different categories of stakeholder in developing local solution for sustainable development.

Our research activity, conducted by the Department of Business Studies of "Roma Tre" University and ISPRA (High Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), intends to partially fill this gap by investigating the Italian cluster approach for EMAS, characterized by the creation of a cluster Managing Committee (MC) – which has received a dedicated EMAS certificate– that coordinates the implementation of the scheme.

If in a first phase we investigated the effectiveness of support given to registered EMAS organizations inside the cluster by the MCs that possess an EMAS certificate, the main objective of the second step here presented has been to verify the impact on different stakeholders categories of the actions taken by the various MCs in 11 Italian clusters.

In this paper we present the results of a survey conducted through the distribution of a specifically designed questionnaire on different categories of stakeholders (public local authorities as Cities and provinces, Trade Association and non-registered firms), with two main goals:

- to determine the impacts of the action put in place by the Managing Committee inside the clusters, in terms of environmental performance enhancements and network creations to improve the cluster competitiveness;
- to evaluate how the tools offered to cluster organizations have effectively contributed to a widespread knowledge of EMAS and environmental concerns.

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