

LIFE ■ Environment



EMAS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN HOSPITALS



LIFE04 ENV/GR/114

The Programme eHOSPITALEMAS

The project aims at using new EMAS Regulation No 761/2001 as a tool for the development of environmental action programmes in two hospitals in Athens through the establishment of sound administrative structures.

Beneficiary of the project is the *General Hospital Asklepieio Voulas* and the participating partners are *Metropolitan Hospital*, *National School of Public Health*, *EPTA Ltd* and *Planet S.A.*

Objectives:

- ☑ To promote integrated environmental management through the use of Information Technology
- ☑ To develop an up-to-date software tool for EMAS in large organisations
- ☑ To demonstrate the benefits of EMAS to both public and private hospitals
- ☑ To introduce best practices in the health sector
- ☑ To promote energy efficiency, sustainable waste management and green purchasing in Mediterranean hospitals
- ☑ To raise environmental awareness through EMAS implementation and Information Technology in hospitals and other organisations in other countries

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Community Action for the Environment



During the late 1980s, public consciousness about environmental threats grew rapidly. Large-scale environmental disasters such as the Chernobyl catastrophe focused attention on the need for higher levels of environmental protection. Issues such as the holes in the ozone layer over the poles and global warming prompted an acceleration in European environmental policy-making and institution-building.

However, EU action on the environment can be traced back even earlier. From 1972, measures to limit pollution and improve waste management were adopted. Preceding actions of the European Community include:

ACE - Action Communautaire pour l'Environnement

The ACE programme funded 53 nature protection and 55 clean technology projects. The total cost of these projects during the lifetime of the programme (1984-1991) was ECU 98 million, with the EU providing ECU 41 million, or 44.5 percent of the total cost.

In addition, a different budget line was made available from 1988 onwards for 'urgent actions for endangered species'. In total, 50 projects were financed with assistance totalling EUR 3 million under this budget.

MEDSPA & NORSPA

Running concurrently with ACE were two programmes supporting environmental projects in two specific regions: MEDSPA (Mediterranean), and NORSPA (Northern European maritime regions).

MEDSPA ran from 1986 to 1991, supporting 198 projects to the tune of ECU 38 million. Projects financed covered water resources, prevention of water pollution, waste disposal and - more than 25 percent of supported projects - conservation of habitats and endangered species.

NORSPA ran from 1989 to 1991. It was a special fund set up in response to particular concerns about the Northern European maritime regions, and provided ECU 16 million in funding for 38 projects.

ACNAT

As the ACE programme concluded in 1991, a separate fund for nature, Actions by the Community for Nature (known as ACNAT) was adopted. The intention of ACNAT was that actions for bird species and sites could continue to receive support in the context of the Birds Directive and in addition funds would be made available for the conservation of other endangered species and habitats. In the event, however, ACNAT was quickly superseded by the adoption of a new, all-encompassing environment. LIFE I was born.

LIFE Programme

(L' Instrument Financier pour l' Environnement /
The Financing Instrument for the Environment)

The first phase of LIFE ran from 1992 to 1995. It coincided with the first time that EU environmental policy was given a firm Treaty basis, in the Single European Act, and with the Fifth Environment Action Programme, which was adopted in 1992. This was to set the pace of environmental reform for the next decade and the LIFE programme was one of its essential tools.

During its first phase, LIFE focused mostly on Promotion of sustainable development and quality of the environment and Protection of habitats and of nature.

LIFE II (1996-1999) had an increased budget, covering an enlarged EU (Austria, Finland and Sweden joined in 1995). During LIFE II, the split of the programme into three categories - LIFE-Nature, LIFE-Environment and LIFE-Third countries - was completed. The scope of the restructured programme was broad.

As LIFE II came to a close in 1999, participation was opened to EU accession countries. The first to get involved was Romania, followed by Slovenia, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia. In June 1999, 'LIFE week' was held, to bring together those involved in LIFE projects. This was a one-off event but was considered a success and led to the European Commission establishing an annual 'Green Week' in Brussels.

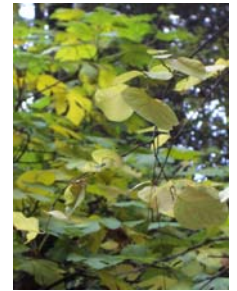
The third phase of the LIFE (2000-2004) was extended for a further two years (2005 and 2006). In total, between 1992 and 2004, the LIFE programme spent EUR 1.36 billion on 2478 projects covering 40 countries and territories. The total estimated cost of projects to which LIFE contributed financially represents a huge environmental investment in Europe and neighbouring states. Between 1992 and 2004 the total estimated cost of projects supported by LIFE was EUR 3.6 billion.

LIFE+

Also in September 2004, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new phase of LIFE, to be known as LIFE+, for the period 2007-2013. This proposes a budget of EUR 2 190 million for the seven year period, and a simplified structure for the programme involving two components:

- LIFE+ implementation and governance (75 to 80 percent of the budget)
- LIFE+ information and communication (20 to 25 percent of the budget)

The programme supports the priorities of the Sixth Environmental Action Programme.



6th Environmental Action Programme

The programme (2002 - 2012) sets the environmental objectives and priorities that will be an integral part of the European Community's strategy for sustainable development. The programme has seven thematic strategies:

- Air Pollution
- Prevention and Recycling of Waste
- Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment
- Soil
- Sustainable Use of Pesticides
- Sustainable Use of Resources
- Urban Environment



EMAS Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU voluntary instrument which acknowledges organisations that improve their environmental performance on a continuous basis. EMAS registered organisations are legally compliant, run an environment management system and report on their environmental performance through the publication of an independently verified environmental statement.



The scheme has been available for participation by companies since 1995 (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1836/93 of 29 June 1993) and was originally restricted to companies in industrial sectors. Since 2001 EMAS has been open to all economic sectors including public and private services (Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001).

In addition, EMAS was strengthened by the integration of EN/ISO 14001 as the environmental management system required by EMAS; by adopting an attractive EMAS logo to signal EMAS registration to the outside world; and by considering more strongly indirect effects such as those related to financial services or administrative and planning decisions.

To receive EMAS registration an organisation must comply with the following steps: conduct an environmental review, establish an effective environmental management system, carry out an environmental audit, provide a statement of its environmental performance. The environmental review, EMS, audit procedure and the environmental statement must be approved by an accredited EMAS verifier and the validated statement needs to be sent to the EMAS Competent Body for registration and made publicly available before an organisation can use the EMAS logo.

The core of the EMAS scheme is the so-called "continuous improvement circle" or "PDCA-circle" (plan-do check-act). The elements of this circle are presented in the following diagramme:



Environmental concerns, growing public pressure and regulatory measures are changing the way people do business around the world. Consumers and shareholders are increasingly demanding environmentally-friendly products and services that are delivered by socially responsible companies. It is becoming increasingly important for organisations to demonstrate that not only their philosophies but also their investment strategies and day-to-day operations are sustainable.

Benefits of the EMAS application include:

- quality environmental management due to the use of a highly developed scheme
- contribution to environmental risk management of the organisation
- resource savings and lower costs according to the organisation's needs
- financial benefits through better control of operations
- compliance check with environmental legislation by EMAS verifier
- learn from good examples of other companies and organisations
- added credibility and confidence with public authorities, other businesses and customers / citizens
- improved relations with the local community
- improved quality of workplaces, employee morale and incentive to team building

More information is available at

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas>

Project Partners



ASKLIPIEIO HOSPITAL



ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ
ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟ ΒΟΥΛΑΣ

Asklepieio is a public hospital located in Voula Attikis. It provides primary and secondary care within the framework of the Greek National Healthcare System. Asklepieio is the beneficiary of the project.



PLANET

PLANET is the largest consulting company in Southeast Europe, established in Greece, providing a wide spectrum of services, including: Management Consulting Services, Information Technology Consulting Services, Development Consulting Services and Engineering Management Services



EPTA Ltd

EPTA Ltd is an Environmental Consultancy, specializing in the fields of environmental management, solid waste management, water and wastewater treatment, recycling, pollution prevention, sustainable development, environmental business management and new technologies in the field of environmental protection.



METROPOLITAN Hospital

It is a private hospital located in Faliro Attikis and one of the newest hospitals of Athens built only 3 years ago. It is equipped with modern technology and also utilizes computer technologies.



National School
of Public Health

Department of Health Economics

Department of Health Economics - National School of Public Health

The National School of Public Health (NSPH) is an educational and research institution concerned with the entire spectrum of public health problems. The Department of Health Economics was founded in 1981 and commenced operation in 1984, training the health personnel in Health Economics and Health Policy. Today, the Department participates in all the educational programmes provided by the National School of Public Health.

At the same time, the Department is involved in research, strategy development and planning of actions aimed at the promotion and development of the health sector in our country, in the wider context of social policy.



eHOSPITALEMAS



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