



**ENHANCE**  
Interreg Europe



Generalitat de Catalunya  
**Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
Alimentació i Agenda Rural**

## **Initiatives & measures adopted by EMAS Competent Body to facilitate the EMAS registration in Catalonia**

### **ENHANCE – Interregional Meeting**

29th March 2022

Virginia Ferrer-Vidal  
DG for Environmental Quality and  
Climate Change, Ministry of Climate  
Action, Food and Rural Agenda,  
Government of Catalonia

# Initiatives & measures adopted by EMAS Competent Body to facilitate the EMAS registration in Catalonia

---

## Impact of COVID on EMAS in Catalonia

- During the weeks of COVID-19 lockdown in Catalonia, our activities as EMAS Competent Body were partially affected.
- The exemptions offered/applied to EMAS organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic have applied to:
  - Renewal of EMAS registration
  - Extending the cycle of internal audits and/or verification audits
  - Submission of Environmental Declarations

A decision was taken on a case-by-case basis

- Remote audits (the verifier and the company agreed on how to proceed)



# Initiatives & measures adopted by EMAS Competent Body to facilitate the EMAS registration in Catalonia

---

- ✓ February 2022: 231 registered organizations with 628 sites (number of registrations has decreased by 3% since the start of the pandemic (2020) however, there has been an increase of 27% in the number of sites).

## As competent body we have observed:

- The industrial sectors that have been the most affected by COVID-19 and had the most difficulties in maintaining EMAS has been, the hotel sector (Tourism sector), but, so far, only one company has deregistered from EMAS.
- Sectors that have contributed new EMAS-registered organizations in 2021:
  - Transport, waste management



# Initiatives & measures adopted by EMAS Competent Body to facilitate the EMAS registration in Catalonia

---

- Environmental declaration of the organizations has incorporated references to the COVID-19/crisis related aspects (2019-2020 and/or 2020-2021), e.g. how the period of confinement was addressed, how the system has responded or adapted to teleworking tools or the identification and assessment of environmental aspects arising from the new situation.
- In this period, some companies have taken the opportunity to implement the digitalization of the Environmental Declaration (for the moment there are few but the upward trend is clear)



# Initiatives & measures adopted by EMAS Competent Body to facilitate the EMAS registration in Catalonia

---

## Actions we have taken as a competent body

- Assistance and support to EMAS organizations during 2020, in the electronic processing of the EMAS Registration → This has speed up the processing of registration, maintenance of certification or renewal.
- Information to EMAS organizations on the measures given by the Commission regarding the verification and validation of the EMAS registration. Information on ENAC's (Spain National Accreditation Body) position on remote audits.
- The fact that organizations have been able to carry out remote audits, extensions of deadlines and that the registration, renewal or maintenance of certification could be done entirely electronically from home, has meant that the EMAS Registration was not stopped during times of confinement.



# Initiatives & measures adopted by EMAS Competent Body to facilitate the EMAS registration in Catalonia

---

## Actions to promote EMAS to face the crisis

- Proposal under evaluation to increase the budget for subsidies for EMAS implementation or renewal for SMEs in 2022.
- Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the EMAS registration (2021), to further promote EMAS as a tool for the promotion of the circular economy and recovery from the crisis.
- Promotion through the ENHANCE project, for the consideration of EMAS in the Circular Economy Roadmap of Catalonia: We are currently working with the authority of this regional policy instrument to introduce EMAS in different levers of the Roadmap. This action will be presented in more detail in a specific ENHANCE workshop.





Generalitat de Catalunya  
**Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
Alimentació i Agenda Rural**

# Thank you!!

@enhance\_eu

[Interreg Europe ENHANCE project](#)

[EMAS Generalitat de Catalunya](#)

Virginia Ferrer-Vidal

[virginia.ferrervidal@gencat.cat](mailto:virginia.ferrervidal@gencat.cat)

**Let's do it!**

