



A short view on TANDEM

“EMAS in Local Bodies and Local Agenda 21”

TANDEM Project

Pilot action for promoting EMAS among Local Bodies operating on a large territory (Provinces and main Municipalities) in TANDEM with Local Agenda 21

Pamphlet



Every document produced within the project is the result of the work carried out by the bodies involved in, with the contribution of the following people: a special thanks for their precious collaboration.

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Introduction

When in 2001 we elaborated TANDEM project, with the collaboration of Sogesca and ERVET and in agreement with partner bodies and we presented it for LIFE Environment financing, we could not forecast how the relapses and the operational and cultural consequences in the life of Bologna Province and other partners would have been important.

In fact, the project produced immediately the wish to adopt the EMAS methodologies as they were developed. As a consequence, TANDEM started soon to produce positive effects and we are sure many others will be produced in the partners' organizations and in all the organizations that have taken part at the workshops.

The manager of the project, Eng. Paolo Natali, Director of the Environment Sector in the Bologna Province, wants to thank all the collaborators: Daniele Tartari, Federica Torri, Sogesca's and ERVET's managers and engineers, hoping the collaboration will prosecute. This pamphlet is written to give a first sight on the results of TANDEM project and to help you in consider the application in your organization.

AGENDA 21 IN ITALY

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action adopted by more than 178 Governments at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, in June 1992.

The document is structured in 40 chapters and four sections: Social and Economic Dimensions, Conservation and Management of Resources for Development, Strengthening The Role Of Major Groups, Means of Implementation. Particularly, chapter 28 "Local Authorities" recognizes the fundamental role of these subjects in implementing sustainable development practices,

considering that more than 45% of the population of the world lives in urban contests and this percentage will increase till 63% in 2030.

We read that "Local Authorities construct and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, establish local environmental policies and regulations, and assist in implementing environmental policies. They play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable development".

So Agenda 21 is a process shared by all the stakeholders to define a local plan of action for the 21st century.

Organization operating for the promotion and the implementation of Local Agenda 21:

- U.N. Economic and Social Development - <http://www.un.org/dpcsd>
- ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) - <http://www.iclei.org>
- Environment DG E.U. - http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/index_it.htm
- European Sustainable Cities Campaign - <http://www.sustainable-cities.org>
- Coordination Italian Local Agendas 21 - <http://www.a21italy.net/>
- Italian Ministry of the Environment - <http://www.minambiente.it/SVS/agenda21/agenda.htm>



EMAS REGULATION 761/01

Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 (EMAS II) rules the voluntary participation to a continual improvement process of environmental performances providing for legal compliance.

Every organisation can apply to EMAS. EMAS represents, for the Public Bodies, a significant tool for the territory management. The first step is an **Environmental review** to identify and evaluate the significant environmental key issue linked to the activities. This is done in order to delineate an Environmental Management System and the main objectives.

Based on the environmental review, the Organisation establishes the **Environmental policy** that should include the legal compliance and the commitment to continual improvement of environmental performance. Furthermore Environmental policy provides the framework for setting **specific objectives** and an **environmental programme**.

The **Environmental Management System** (EMS.) is developed on the basis of the Regulation's requirements. Its first goal is to make the continual improvement process active. This process allows the Organisation to plan and carry out the activities and to verify the results, in order to decide if it is necessary to modify the planning decisions. The system efficacy is represented by correct identification of the environmental aspects through the review and the maintenance of legal compliance.

The last step is the **Environmental statement**. It provides interested parties with information about the organisation's environmental performances and the EMS structure. The Environmental statement is a basic document for the audit. A third independent party should **validate** it if the organisation has correctly applied the EMAS requirements.

Organization operating for promoting and the implementing of EMAS:

- European Commission, Environment, EMAS Section-
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/index_en.htm
- Italian Committee for Ecolabel and Ecoaudit -
http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/ecolabel_ecoaudit/ecolabel_ecoaudit.htm
- National Agency for the Environment Protection and for technical services -
<http://www.apat.it/>

STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF EMAS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

The Regulation "EMAS - Eco Management and Audit Scheme" is a solution for the innovation of the territory management and its recognition through the registration in the European Union Register.

EMAS is also a management system for the "Public Bodies" to co-ordinate other planning and sustainability tools as Local Agenda 21 process.

EMAS is important for its relationship with other (institutional or not) existing tools, and for its suitability for decisional and administrative processes support of the territory management.

To obtain the environmental registration, the Public Body should promote activities enhancing the key points through the interested parties. To this aim it's important to underline how EMAS guarantees transparency to the success or failure of the Body's policies.

Other positive aspects are the adoption of new communication patterns with the citizens and the economic world, the guarantee of legal compliance, the enhancement of the direct aspects management (e.g. reduction of energy or water consumption).



"TANDEM" PROJECT AND "LIFE" PROGRAMME

The relationship between EMAS and Local Agenda 21 process is the subject of the "TANDEM" project: "Pilot action for promoting EMAS among Local Bodies operating on a large territory (Provinces and main Municipalities) in TANDEM with Local Agenda 21" - co-financed by the European Commission, particularly by the LIFE programme of DG "Environment".

The partnership is characterised by the presence of 8 Provinces and 2 Municipalities from 5 Italian Regions and one research centre:

- Provinces of Bologna, (beneficiary of the project), Ancona, Bari, Genoa, Modena, Parma, Venice)

- Municipalities of Ferrara and Modena.

- Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry department of the Genoa University.

And as a technical support:

Sogesca Srl from Padua

ERVET SpA Emilia-Romagna Development Agency.

TANDEM has reached the target of how EMAS Regulation can be adopted by a Local Body operating on a large territory on the basis of its own administrative relations with the territory (administrative TANDEM) and in synergy with other territorial management tools (TANDEM with Local Agenda 21).

More than other 35 Italian local authorities joined 10 workshops as members of the so called TANDEM Open Group, giving a contribution in defining guidelines and receiving in the meantime an updating for the application of EMAS in their organization.

RESULTS PROJECT SYNTHESIS

The project started in November 2001 and ended in February 2004. The result is the elaboration of guidelines for the application of an E.M.S. in a local authority, exploiting the activities and the existing or foreseen processes for Agenda 21. The final outputs of the project are the followings:

- **Thematic Workshops - Open Group**

Thematic workshops about the applicative problems of an E.M.S. in a Local Body were organized. The workshops involved more than 40 Local Bodies (Open Group) coordinated by Bologna province and technical consultants.

The workshops analysed EMAS and Local Agenda 21 technical and operative aspects, in order to allow the Local Bodies (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities, harbour authorities) to delineate some operative solutions of the most important aspects.

LIFE programme is the main financial tool for the environment policy and environmental legislation of the European Union and particularly of the Sixth Action Programme for the Environment.

LIFE has a budget of 640 millions of Euros for the 2000-2004 period.

Everybody can propose a project with the next criteria:

- 1. be of Community interest by making a significant contribution to the environment policy and environmental legislation;**
- 2. be carried out by technically and financially sound participants;**
- 3. be feasible in terms of technical proposals, timetable, budget and value for money.**

www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm



- **Identification of the entity to be registered**

A guideline to answer to these questions:

- Which are the rules to decide the width of the E.M.S.?
- Why a local authority should implement it?
- Could a local authority adopt EMAS only for a part of the organization?
- How can a local authority match EMS with Agenda 21?

- **The Initial Environmental Analysis**

A guideline to answer to these questions:

- Which are territorial relapses of the decisional processes of a public Body?
- Which are the environmental impacts connected to the management of the structures?
- Which are the informative sources for the environmental analysis?
- How can a local authority exploit the work made for the Agenda 21 Report?
- What is legislative conformity for a local authority?
- How can we value the environmental impacts?

- **Implementing the Environmental Management System**

A guideline to answer to these questions:

- Which stakeholders are to be involved in the implementation of the EMS? How can we be sure that the participation will influence the internal planning?
- How responsibilities should be distributed?
- How Agenda 21 should be integrated with EMAS? How can Agenda 21 indicators be used?
- Which is the optimal number of procedures? And which are the subjects of these?
- How should the Agenda 21 forums be used to satisfied transparency and communication requirements of EMAS?

To closely examine the project:

Website: www.provincia.bologna.it/ambiente/tandem

TANDEM project material can be required by e-mail:

daniele.tartari@nts.provincia.bologna.it

or by ordinary mail:

Provincia di Bologna

Settore ambiente/Progetto TANDEM

Strada Maggiore, 80

40125 Bologna

All the choices about the E.M.S. planning have considered the relationship between EMAS and Local Agenda 21.

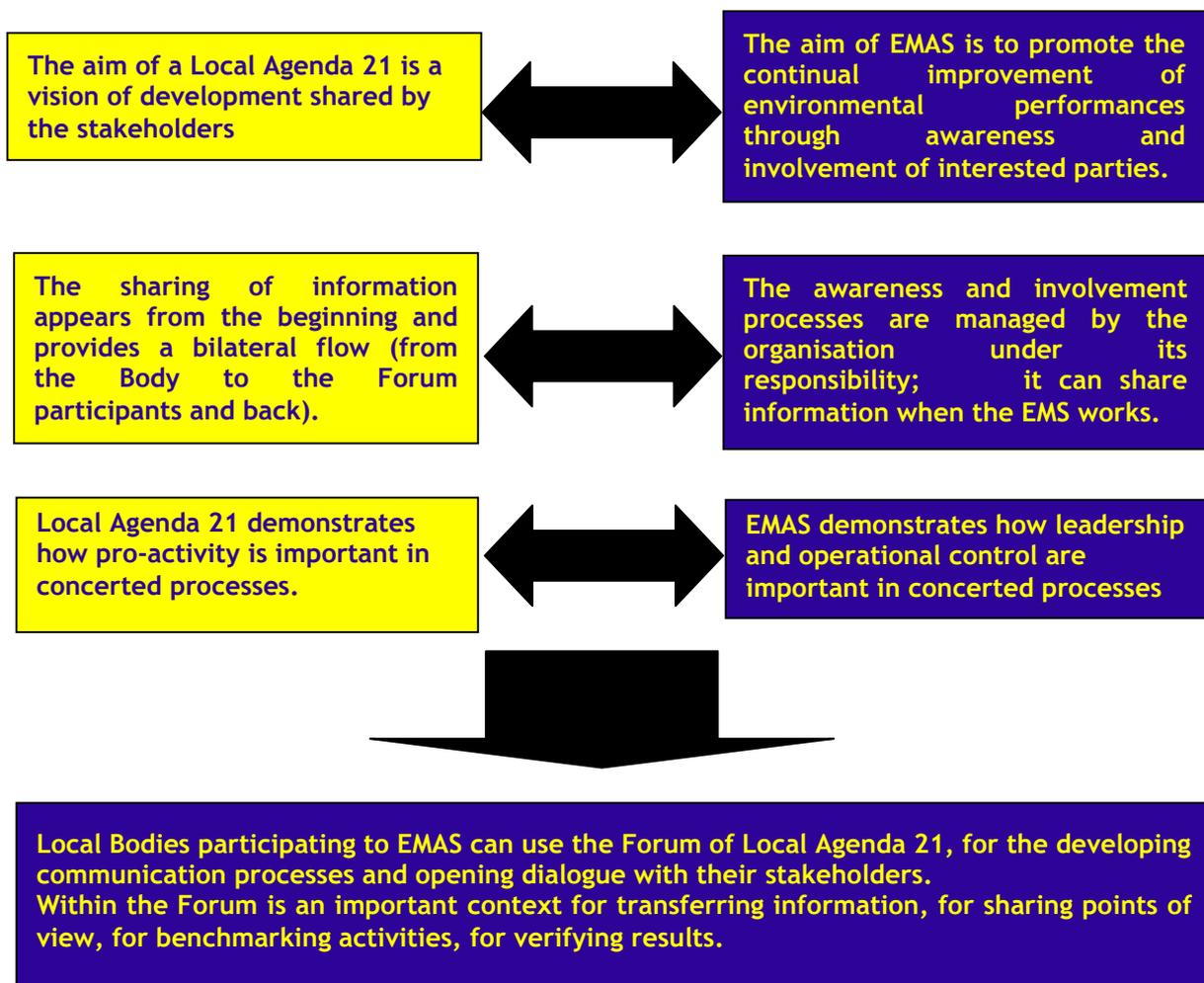
Next schemes underline that Local Agenda 21 doesn't establish requirements as EMAS moreover it doesn't request procedures and definition of responsibilities and roles.



Synergies between EMAS and Local Agenda 21 about communication and transparency

Activity of the Local Agenda 21 Forum is strategic. The Forum of a Local Agenda 21 should be made by working groups meetings and allows a continual exchange of information and news among politicians, experts, citizens, entrepreneurs.
 Agenda 21 Forum can be constituted by thematic groups (air, waste, etc.), or by

a pressure factors groups (traffic, tourism, etc.), or organised by territorial areas (urban areas, suburbs areas, etc.) or by user criteria (kids, enterprises, tourism, etc.).
 Other stakeholders involved in the Forum are: environmental associations, religious institutions or groups, industrial associations, public services shared organisations, schools, Universities, banks and financial institutions, customers associations, NGOs.





Synergies between EMAS and Local Agenda 21 about operative control

On the basis of the TANDEM guidelines, here are indicated some topics about "monitoring and measurement", indicators and indexes. From the analysis of Regulation requirements is possible to conclude that is necessary to establish a process for each management system:

Monitoring of direct aspects is a demanding aspect. The information about consumptions are always available. The activities of information transfer from the administrative area to the technical area, where is possible to elaborate the indicators and its significance and improvement assessment are expensive.

It should be useful to convert systematic modalities into procedures, to transfer the consumption data.

Monitoring of indirect aspects requests the identification of new indicators and the availability of some previously not available data.

Monitoring of the state of the environment should help the Public Administration to define the important aspects for the significance assessment of the indirect aspects, for the improvement objectives progress.

When the difficulties (also the economic ones) about the indicators choice are known, we can easily refer to the experience resulting from the redaction of Environmental Reports:

