

**“Specific issues to be addressed by a PA  
while implementing EMAS”**  
*the governance tool for the territory*

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## Summary

Specific aspects of EMAS implementation in local authorities and public administration:

- The scheme;
- EMAS & Local Agenda 21
- The environmental policy;
- Direct and indirect aspects;
- Evaluation of the relevance;
- Performance indicators.

## Specific aspects of EMAS in local authorities

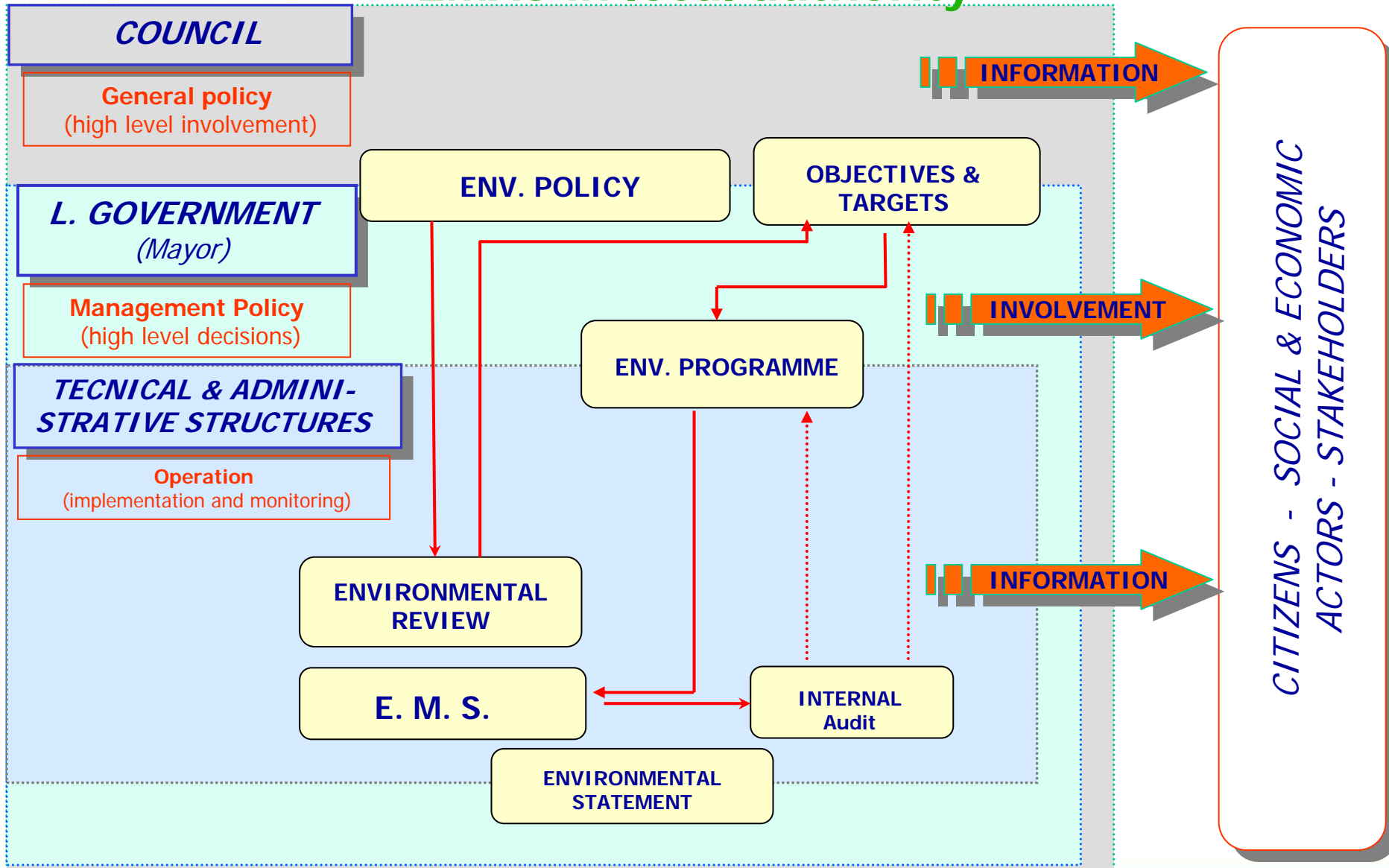
### EMAS in local authorities:

- the EMS is a practical tool to implement the local government environmental policy and achieve better performances as a result of an overall planning activity;
- EMAS requires the organization to manage all its activities which have relevant impact to the environment (most engaging are the indirect aspects);
- through the environmental statement EMAS helps communication between all interested parties in an open dialogue facilitation cooperation between the public institutions and the citizens, the economic and social actors within the community;
- EMAS can take advantage from already Local Agenda 21 activities.

## EMAS & Local Agenda 21

- Both EMAS and LA21 are voluntary systems, based on planning and monitoring methodology and seek for full participation of local economic and social actors in the territory;
- Both EMAS and LA21 can be adopted by a public administration or local authority in the view of achieving a better quality of the environment in a defined territory and contribute to sustainable development.
- LA21 is more oriented to general sustainability policy and seen capable to achieve results in long term;
- EMAS is more practical tool to implement action plans, check performances results on a systematic basis, verify the reliability of the system and communicate the objective and targets achieved in a continuous process.

# EMAS in local authority



## Environmental policy

The E.P. in a Local authority requires full acceptance by all parties since it will be the framework for future and long term action towards the environment.

The policy, and as a consequence the whole project of EMAS implementation, will not succeed if:

- presented and adopted by only one part of the members of the council (those proposing it);
- not available to all the citizens from the first beginning;
- not known to all the LA personnel, suppliers, and companies contracted to manage public services under the administration authority;
- not focused and tailored to the relevant environmental issues in the community;
- It includes only principles that cannot be verified on a systematic and objective way by an independent verifier.

## Environmental review

Main elements to be included in the ER by a Local authority:

- The status of vulnerability of the territory under its jurisdiction (hydrography, geology, climate, seismic risk, heritage, natural and protected areas, flora and fauna and risk for their extinction, costal areas, etc.);
- Social and economic context (statistics on economic activities, population and its modification such as migration, tourism and age distribution, etc.)
- Status of environment (air, water, waste, resources, noise, electromagnetic fields, natural and artificial radioactivity etc.)
- Pressure on environment by direct local authority activities and from (indirect) contracted activities;
- Pressure on environment coming by other activities in the territory by human sources (industry, agriculture, etc.) and by natural phenomena (volcano, thunderstorms, etc.)

## Direct & indirect aspects

### LA has on direct aspects:

- High influence: those generated by activities, products & services directly managed by the administration through its organization (personnel and structures);
- High influence: those that can be addressed and influenced by the approval of specific rules (legislation, contracts, enforcement actions, etc.);

### LA has on indirect aspects:

- Medium influence: those not generated by the activities of the administration but that can be reduced by proper behaviour of third parties through measures (i.e. economic incentives, voluntary agreements, administrative relief, etc.)
- Low influence: Those that are widely spread and need long term planning to achieve cultural change of the public or other stakeholders as a result of information and education and activity.



## Environmental review

Examples of direct aspects:

- Functioning of the buildings (energy, water, waste, paper, toner, computers, cars, personnel transportation, air conditioning, etc.);
- Maintenance activities (buildings, electricity, heating and cooling systems, public green, etc.)
- Other public services under direct responsibility of technical personnel belonging to the administration;
- Acts and decisions taken by the council (or other government) on general policy having direct or indirect consequences to the environment (measures on urban mobility, infrastructures, land use planning, waste collection and disposal, schools, etc.);
- Specific on environment rules binding contracted companies for public services (waste collection & disposal, public transport, water [gas and electricity] distribution, car maintenance, etc.).

## Environmental review

Examples of indirect aspects:

- Pressure to the environment from activities, products and services not directly managed or under control of the administration;
- Economic development in the territory (consequences of new industrial districts, of new tourist areas or leisure parks, request for more commercial malls, sport or other events, etc.);
- Changes on the pressure to the environment due to human increased activities (increased resource consumption, waste production, traffic congestion due to increased private mobility, noise, etc.);
- Incentive policy to activities seeking more environmentally friendly production (EMS) or products (Ecolabel);
- Environmental education and training, dissemination of proper information to the public (citizens, tourists, etc.).

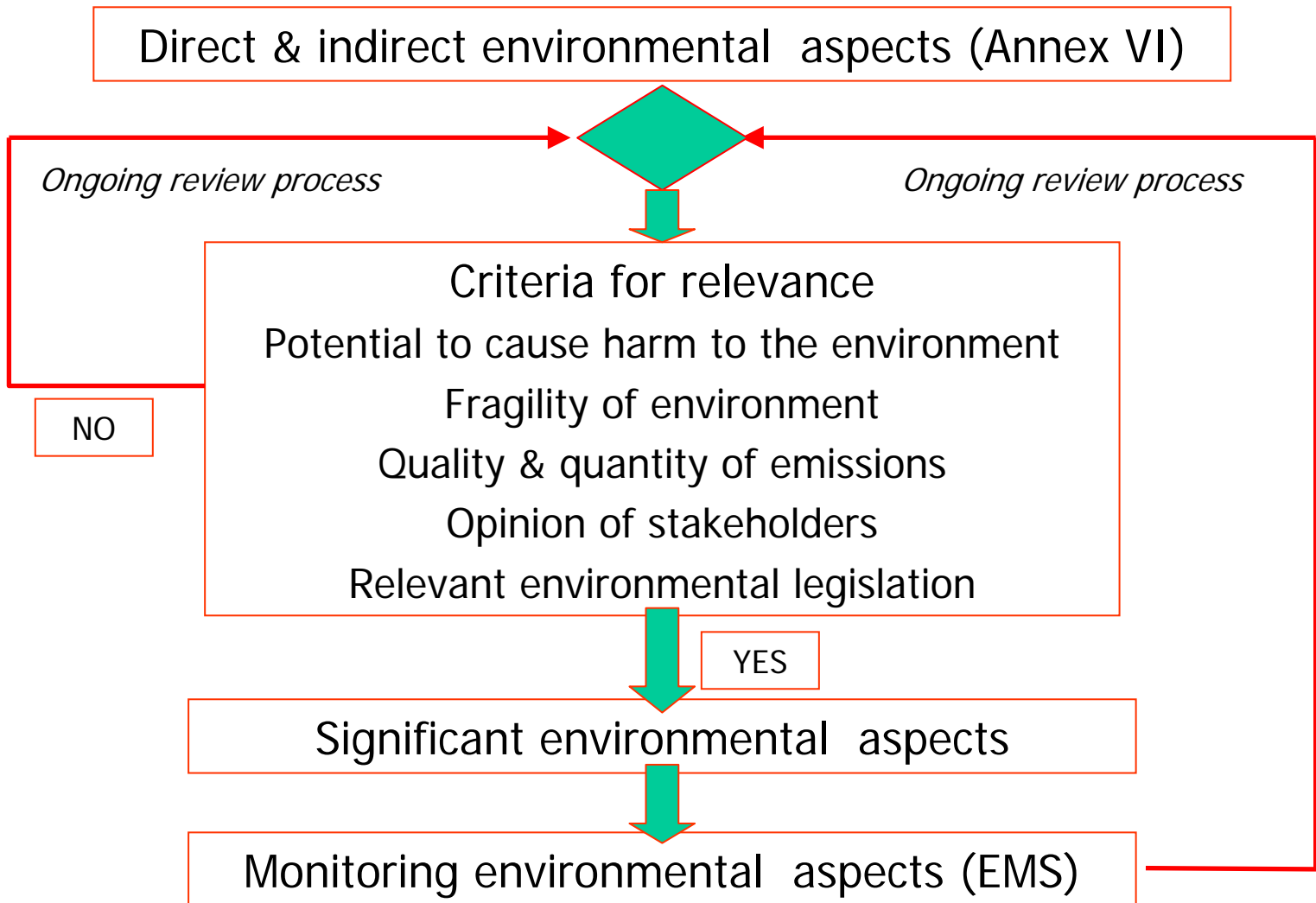
## Examples of influence levels

Sector	Organization involved	Aspect	How aspects and impacts can be influenced	Level
Sport and culture Department	Swimming pool and sport centre	Energy consumption	Change of water recycling pumps and heating fan motor drives from fixed to variable speed intelligent system	high
Maintenance Department	Building management	Energy consumption	Change water boilers from traditional technology to condensing gas boilers with high efficiency ratio > 95%	high
Administration and technical departments	Waste service company	Household waste collection	Specific contractual rules enforce the service company to increase the percentage of recycling	high
Personnel and financial Departments	Employees	Traffic for private and service mobility	Incentives to all employees to use public transport while travelling to work and for service	medium

## Examples of influence levels

Sector	Organization involved	Aspect	How aspects and impacts can be influenced	Level
Industry	Production companies	Authorization procedure	Green lane for EMAS registered companies submitting request of permits (environmental or other legislation)	medium
Industry	Production companies	Incentives for recycling of packaging	Incentives are given if the companies provides evidence of measures taken to reduce packaging waste disposal through the cooperation of their clients (consumers)	medium
Public administration	Local structures, departments	Stakeholders involvement	Action taken by the local authority to improve citizens knowledge of general and specific environmental issues and be aware of consequences of their behaviour	Low
Touristic	Touristic structures (hotels, restaurants, etc.)	Information and environmental education	Initiative to tourist structures to inform how impact to the environment can be reduced through implementation of good practices	low

# Evaluation of significance of aspects and impacts



## Performance indicators

Performance monitoring needs the support of appropriate indicators that should:

- Allow comparison between several years for each environmental aspect/impact in order to measure the improvements;
- Allow an evaluation of the performances by means of appropriate numbers and figures;
- Allow benchmarking with other similar organizations;
- Be clear and readable for the public while reporting in the statement;
- Chosen and reported in graphs to be easily understandable.
- Represent an absolute number (if relevant) or as a ratio between two or more numbers (more representative);

Difficult issue for public administration to establish indicators on indirect aspects and impacts.

## Performance indicators

Example n. 1: Electric company

Absolute indicator: tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

Specific indicator g CO<sub>2</sub> / kWh

Emissioni totali CO<sub>2</sub> (t)



Emissioni specifiche CO<sub>2</sub> (g/kWh netti)



## Conclusions

EMAS implemented in a Public Administration or Local Authority;

Benefits:

- Is a practical tool to manage direct and indirect aspects and achieve relevant environmental objectives in a reasonable time;
- Is a good instrument to enhance communication with citizens and stakeholders;
- Keeps “live” the final objective that is a better quality of the environment (and of citizens life) seen in the prospective of sustainable development;

Critical issues:

- Structured EMS according to ISO 14001 are more easy to be applied to companies rather than to public administration;
- Citizens can evaluate and monitor the results achieved by the elected representatives;
- Failure in the environmental policy cannot be hidden.