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# Toolkit Zone 2 Navigating EU Sustainability Frameworks

## EMAS EASY for SMEs

Green and Circular Economy in Business by  
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### ***EMAS EASY: making a demanding scheme workable for SMEs***

On first look, EMAS can seem too demanding for a small business. To address this, a dedicated method called **EMAS EASY** was developed to help micro and small enterprises implement EMAS in a way that fits their resources and skills (European Commission, 2007).

EMAS EASY is built around a few core ideas:

- **Simplicity and participation**

The starting point is not a large manual but a simple **map of the site**. On this map, the company creates a series of “**ECOMaps**” for key themes such as water, energy, soil and ground, waste, and air/emissions. Employees then mark where environmental issues occur—leaks, noise, waste points, risky storage, etc.—so that impacts become **visible and understandable for everyone**, not only specialists.

- **Light, practical tools**

The method uses a small set of tools:

- a **Quick Check** to see where the business stands,
- simple **control panels** to monitor things like energy, water and waste, and
- an **EcologBook** to record actions, responsibilities and data.

These tools are designed so that no higher environmental education is

required and documentation remains **short and clear** (European Commission, 2007).

- **Shorter implementation time and cluster approaches**

Experience shows that a traditional EMAS implementation in an SME may take **15–18 months**, while EMAS EASY often allows implementation and registration in about **4–9 months**, depending on size and complexity. When several SMEs work together in a cluster—such as on a business park—parts of the documentation and verification process can be shared, reducing costs further (European Commission, 2007).

Importantly, EMAS EASY does **not** dilute EMAS requirements. SMEs still have to:

- complete a **full environmental review**,
- set up and operate an environmental management system,
- perform **internal audits**,
- produce an **environmental statement**,
- undergo external **verification and validation**, and
- be **registered** by the national EMAS Competent Body (European Commission, 2007).

The scheme therefore keeps the **same level of ambition** for environmental performance and legal compliance as for

large companies. What changes is the **pathway**: EMAS EASY makes that pathway realistic and affordable for SMEs.



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