



Regional Study on Exchange Process

ANDALUSIA

Document developed by PP2: Regional Ministry on Environment and Spatial Planning (RGA)

Seville, 30th December 2018

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1. Introduction

The activities in the first part of the project have provided to each project partner the opportunity to interact with different sort of stakeholders at different levels, within their own regions and with stakeholders of other regions and countries. This has led to a learning and capacity building processes that have allowed not only to generate the “Towards EMAS Action Plan” but also to improve and reinforce other aspects that concern the competencies of the partners.

This second part of the Regional Study of the Interreg ENHANCE Project aims to present the main lessons learned from the exchange process that has taken place during the two years of the project.

Activities carried out during the first stage of the project have given project partners to a chance to interact with several stakeholders from different levels within their own regions, participating regions and other non participating regions/countries in the project. This interaction has been carried out through the Learning and Capacity Building processes and made it possible to define the "Towards EMAS Action Plan", but also to strengthen other aspects related to the competences of each of the partners.

This second Regional Study of the Interreg ENHANCE project aims at showing the main lessons learned during the Exchange process that has taken place during the first two years of the project.

2. Lessons learnt from the Stakeholder Meetings (SHM), Interregional Meeting (IM) and Workshops (WS)

The interaction and cooperation with stakeholders provided by ENHANCE project has allowed RGA, on the one hand, to know in depth and take into account the needs and particularities of the priority sectors of Andalusia and, on the other hand, to learn from experts and professionals that have participated throughout the Interregional Meeting (IM) and Thematic Workshops (WS).

As a result of this interaction and cooperation, the RGA has developed this Action Plan in which concrete actions have been materialized, taking into account the Andalusian Strategy for EMAS promotion. Likewise, this Action Plan is intended to answer, to the extent possible, to the majority Andalusian Stakeholder requirements, where the RGA must focus its efforts.

The wide variety of institutions that have participated (Private Entities, Associations, Public Administrations, Environmental Verifiers, etc.) and the representativeness of the main sectors (Industry, Aquaculture, Waste, Ports, etc.) has allowed RGA to know the different points of view and the way to implement in Andalusia the good practices learnt from the participating regions in the project. As a result of this interaction, the RGA has learned how to transfer and implement these good practices in the legal and regulatory framework of Andalusia, giving response to the actual needs of these priority sectors.

Derived from the interaction with the project partners, the RGA has learnt that the Andalusian Strategy for EMAS promotion is perfectly aligned with the Strategies of the rest participating regions/countries in the project. In fact, the evolution of EMAS registration in Andalusia still continues to be positive and confirms that the RGA is working in the right direction.

The fact that the Strategies for EMAS promotion in all participating regions/countries are aligned each other is proof of the clear commitment of the European Commission to give greater weight and visibility to EMAS system. The European Union and its respective Member States are working on the search and establishment of measures to valorise this voluntary instrument, developing relevant actions on the part of competent authorities: from deduction of taxes to

simplification of administrative burdens, streamlining procedures, reduction of inspection frequency, etc.

It is with precisely this in mind that the RGA is already working on improvement of EMAS implementation to overcome the main barriers faced by organizations to implement EMAS. For this reason, the RGA is working in close collaboration with the main Stakeholders of Andalusia in order to get to know their main needs and expectations and translate them into actions through in the EMAS-Towards Action Plan in Andalusia.

Derived from the interaction with experts and professionals, the RGA has learnt that successful efforts have been undertaken by Public Administrations to boost and consolidated EMAS Scheme within its respective territorial competences, providing real benefits to EMAS-registered organizations and simplifying costs and administrative burdens to which they are subjected.

3. Interaction and cooperation with Stakeholders (SH)

In order to continue working on the improvement of the EMAS Scheme, specially for overcoming some of the barriers faced by organizations to implement EMAS, the RGA is working hand in hand with the main key agents of its territory, who have actively participated as a Stakeholder Group (SHG) in order to take action in Andalusia based on learning and exchange with the rest of the project partners of experiences and good practices in support of EMAS registration in Andalusia.

The participation of these Stakeholders has been, is and will be crucial so that all actions carried out by the RGA are effective and efficient, overcoming some of the barriers faced by organizations (such as, lack of EMAS recognition market, technical support provided by Public Administrations, external incentives, etc.).

As a start to this dialogue and collaboration a “multidisciplinary” Stakeholder Group has been set-up at the beginning of the project, participating a representation of the priority sectors and the most key actors for EMAS registration in Andalusia. These Stakeholders have participated in all meetings held in the framework of the project and have provided its needs and particularities.

As can be seen from the following figure, all priority sectors have been represented through some of these organizations and institutions:

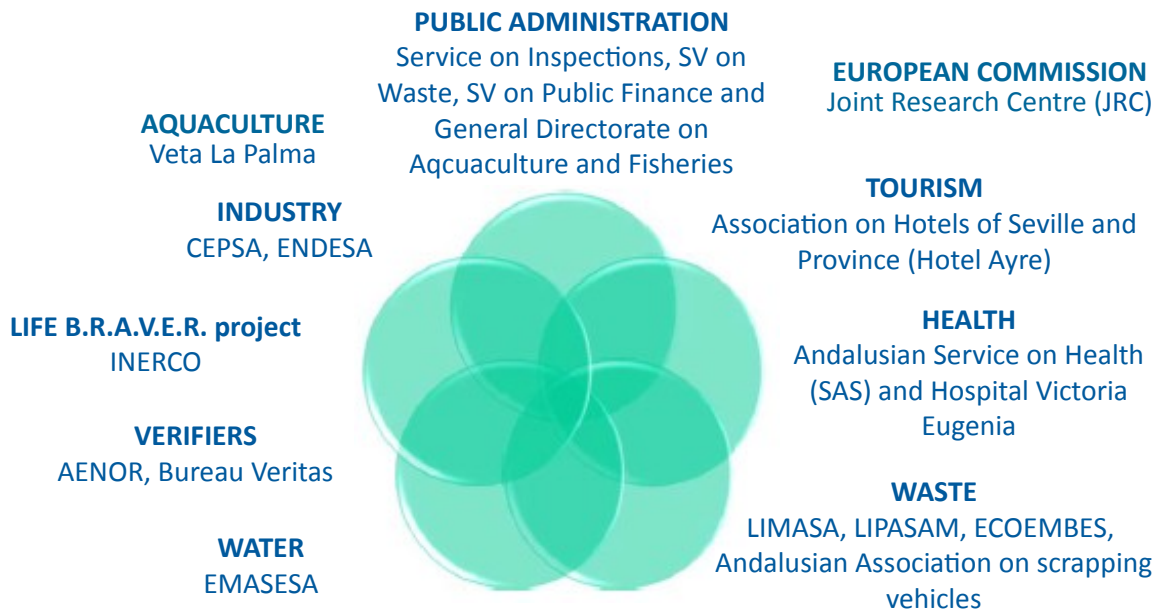


Figure 1.- Representatives of key actors in the ENAHNCE project in Andalusia
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

This interface and interaction between Public Administration (RGA) and SMEs (the most representative Stakeholder in Andalusia) has been necessary to achieve the environmental objectives and priorities set by the Operational Program (OP) 2014-2020 in Andalusia.

This OP contributes to the strategic priorities of the European Regional Policy for the economic development and the Cohesion Policy, whose reference framework is determined by the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The option for smart growth, aimed at contributing to an economy based on knowledge and innovation is directly related to Thematic Objective 3 of the Andalusian OP “Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs”, and more specifically to the to the Investment Priority 3d, Specific Objective 3.4.1, “Promoting SMEs growth and consolidation, in particular, by improving their finance, technology and access to advanced support services”.

In order to guarantee sustained results and a more efficient implementation of structural funds, this Policy Instrument (PI) needs to be improved in order to encourage organizations to adopt systematically good environmental practices, as well as to foster collaboration among public authorities and other stakeholders to guarantee a successful implementation of EMAS and other voluntary schemes by SMEs.

The main role of the Andalusian Stakeholder Group has had is to create a group of organisations with the objective of:

- Identifying the best practices to promote EMAS currently carried out at regional level (Andalusia).
- Exchanging the best practices with other participating regions in ENHANCE project to select the most promising ones to be implemented for policy change taking into consideration main obstacles (e.g., organisational, financial, etc.) and the solutions to solve it.
- Supporting the development and implementation of the Action Plan defined for the region of Andalusia.

For this, the Andalusian Stakeholder Group have participated in the following activities of the project:

- Identification of the best practices to promote EMAS and to be include in the Regional study for the Region of Andalusia.
- Validation of the conclusions of the interregional study regarding the best practices susceptible to be exchange between Andalusia and the other participating regions in the project and which will be the base to develop the Action plan for the Region of Andalusia.

RGA has also arranged "bilateral" meetings with specific sectors, specifically aquaculture sector, promoting SMEs growth and consolidation by promotion and development of EMAS. Searching for synergies and taking advantage of them with other Interreg projects in which RGA is involved, that is, SYMBI and GPP4Growth, has been a goal for us.

The participation and collaboration of these stakeholders, in the representation of public and private institutions, has allowed the RGA to know in detail the needs

and expectations of the sectors as well as the main inputs for the search and identification of those good practices adopted in other participating regions most susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia.

A common methodology has been provided by ENHANCE project for this identification and selection of those good practices most susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia, which has allowed the RGA to know in detail each of the good practices adopted in the participating regions and assess its feasibility, effectiveness and transferability.

RGA has reinforced this exchange of good practices and transfer of knowledge process among participating regions with another initiative: “EMAS Ideas Bank”, which has been made available to Andalusian Stakeholders in order to facilitate and improve this interaction and collaboration, providing all those ideas and initiatives to improve EMAS registration in Andalusia.

As can be seen in the following figure, this Regional Study includes lessons learnt by RGA throughout the main learning processes provided by ENHANCE project: 1) Exchange of Good Practices among participating regions; 2) Thematic workshops; and 3) Interaction and collaboration with Stakeholders.

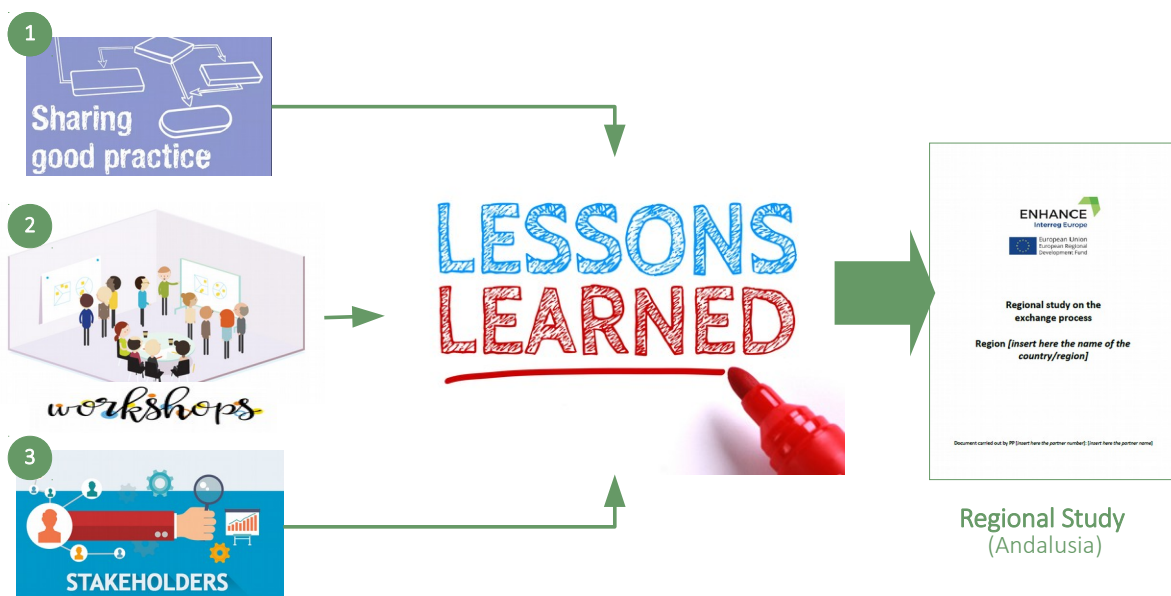


Figure 2.- Lesson Learnt throughout ENHANCE project in Andalusia
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

The main lessons learnt are described in detail in the following sections.

4. Main lessons learnt from the professionals involved as Stakeholders (SH)

One of the main objectives of the ENHANCE project has been to set up and to make available to all European regions an EMAS Database. This Database includes those Good Practices adopted in each of the participating regions and/or countries to improve and promote EMAS registration within their respective territories.

A common methodology has been provided by ENHANCE project to set up this Database, establishing criteria for the identification of good practices adopted in each participating regions and/or countries and for the subsequent selection of these best practices more susceptible to be transferred to its respective regions and/or countries.

This methodology has set firm bases for the good practices exchange process among the participating regions and/or countries and later learning and capacity building process.

The 1st Regional Study developed at the beginning of the project includes all good practices adopted in each of the participating regions and/or countries (in Andalusia, entitled as “Andalusia LEARNS”). However, this 2nd Regional Study includes those best practices more susceptible to be transferred to each of the participating regions and/or countries (in Andalusia, entitled as “Andalusia TEACHES”).

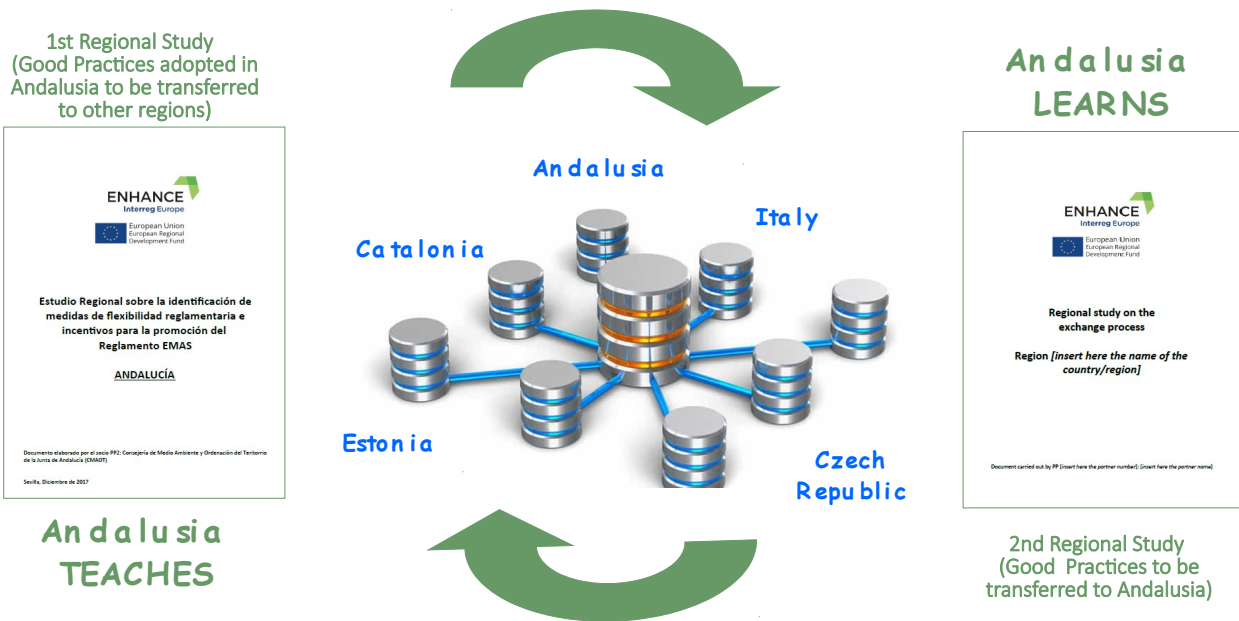


Figure 3.- Exchange of Good Practices provided by ENHANCE project in Andalusia
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

Andalusian Stakeholders have been essential to identify those Good Practices adopted in Andalusia (Andalusia “TEACHES”) and to select those Best Practices most susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia (Andalusia “LEARNS”).

This exchange process has been reinforced by “EMAS Ideas Bank” and “Thematic Workshops” to provide further information about all these good practices.

Andalusian Stakeholders have provided the needs, improvement proposals and expectations of the priority sectors for EMAS promotion in Andalusia through this “EMAS Ideas Bank”.

The ideas provided by Andalusian Stakeholders have been one of the main inputs for the RGA to select those best practices more susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia.

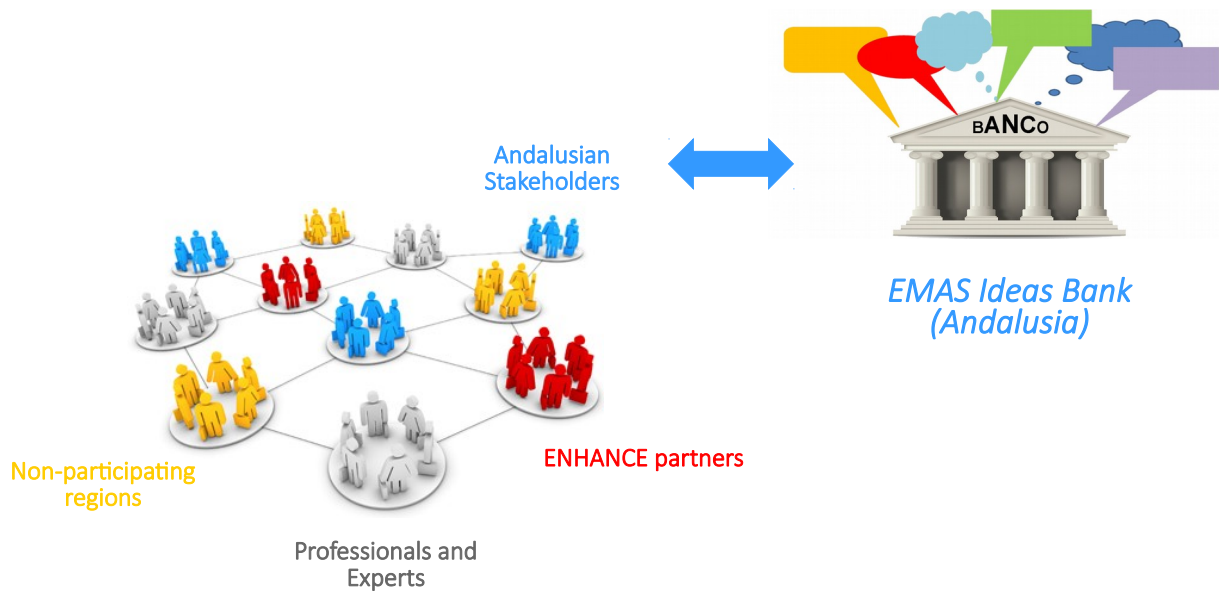


Figure 4.- Stakeholders involved during ENHANCE project in Andalusia
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

Once the RGA has known interests of all Stakeholders, those best practices more susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia have been selected, but in this case analysing in-depth and assessing its technical, economic and political feasibility.

This in-depth analysis and feasibility study has been done through Thematic Workshops held within the framework of the ENHANCE project. In these Workshops have participated all project partners and other experts and professionals in each of the topics in order to provide more information about some success stories and case studies.

Five Thematic Workshops have been held throughout the project, each of them organised by each participating regions:

1. Circular Economy (Barcelona) → EMAS as a lever for moving towards Circular Economy.
2. Regulatory Relief (Pisa) → EMAS as a tool for streamlining procedures, reducing environmental inspections, etc.
3. Green Public Procurement (Tallin) → EMAS as an environmental criterion in Public Procurement.

4. Environmental Communication (Seville) → EMAS is more than logo, it is a brand.
5. Environmental Inspections (Vienna) → EMAS as a criterion in the Methodology for Environmental Risks in the framework of Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).



Figure 5.- Thematic Workshops held in ENHANCE project
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

Each workshop has been organised by one partner, but all of them have had the same approach and structure:

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- Introduction and background of the addressed topic.
- Presentation of good practices adopted in each of the participating regions and/or countries related to the addressed topic.
- Round table with experts and professionals in the addressed topic.
- Mesa Redonda en la que los profesionales y expertos abrían debate sobre

This approach has been able, on the one hand, to know in detail each of the Good Practices adopted in the participating regions and, on the other hand, to learn from the experiences and success stories of the professionals and experts.

Therefore, the needs and particularities of Andalusian Stakeholders (EMAS Ideas Bank) and the lessons learned during the Thematic Workshops have been the main inputs for the RGA to select those best practices more susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia.

5. Main lessons learnt from the cooperation with other partners

Once the needs, particularities and expectations of Andalusian Stakeholders have been known (through EMAS Ideas Bank) and the Good Practices adopted in each of participating regions and/or countries (through Thematic Workshops) have been analysed in detail, the RGA has selected those Good 10 Practices more susceptible to be transferred to Andalusia. These Good Practices satisfy most of the needs of Andalusian Stakeholders and are aligned with the Andalusian Strategy for EMAS Promotion and the Policy Instrument of Andalusia.

These Good 10 Practices have been the following:

1. Inclusion of EMAS as a criterion of Technical Solvency in Green Public Procurement in Andalusia (from Catalonia).
2. Financial support (grants or subsidies) for EMAS implementation and maintenance (from Catalonia).
3. Financial support (grants or subsidies) for EMAS implementation and maintenance in aquaculture sector (from Italy).
4. Reduction of taxes and fees for EMAS-registered organizations (from Italy).
5. Reduction of financial guarantees for EMAS-registered organizations in waste sector (from Italy).
6. Self Declaration in the procedure of extension of a permit (from Italy)
7. Sectoral Guidelines for EMAS implementation (from Catalonia).
8. EMAS Club (from Catalonia).
9. Extension of validity period for End-of-Life Vehicle facilities (from Italy).
10. Dissemination and visibility activities for EMAS promotion (from Catalonia).

All these Good Practices come from Catalonia and Italy, the most advanced regions in the ENHANCE project. These regions have the largest number of measures in favour of EMAS-registered organizations. In addition, the environmental competences in Estonia and Czech Republic are established at the national level, so they can not be transposed to our region, since most of the environmental competences are established at regional level in Andalusia.

These Good 10 Practices have been described and analysed in detail by the RGA in order to know and select those Best 5 Practices that will be translated into the EMAS Towards Action Plan in Andalusia.

During this analysis, the RGA has followed the common methodology and criteria provided by ENHANCE project, which have assessed, among other aspects, the replicability and effectiveness of each of measures for the EMAS dissemination in Andalusia.

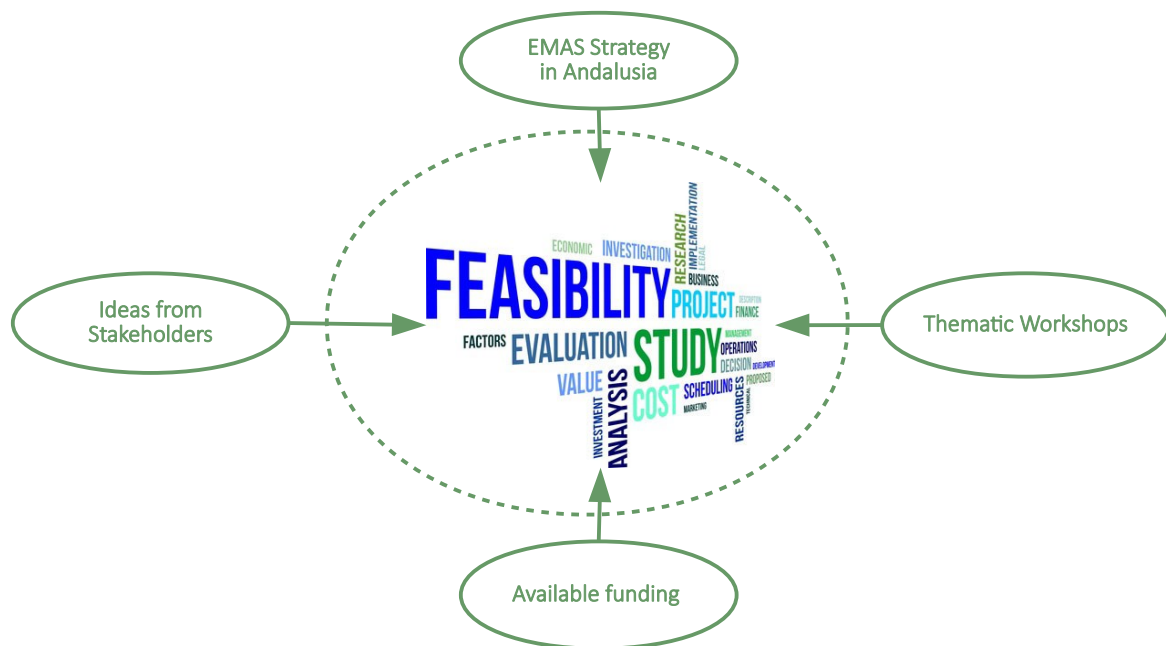


Figure 6.- Feasibility Study of Good Practices provided by ENHANCE project in Andalusia
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

In parallel with this analysis, the operational steps have been described to replicate in Andalusia these Best Practices from other regions, taking into account aspects, such as identification of competent authorities responsible for implementing the measure, the methodology to implement it (meetings, workshops, etc.) and the possible participation of other private entities (Business Associations, etc.).

In some cases, the RGA has had to contact with participating regions to learn more about some specific good practice, its barriers and advantages, etc.

This exchange of good practices among participating regions and its subsequent analysis has enabled the RGA to know in detail each of the good practices in order to overcome barriers faced by regions for the implementation of each of these measures.

6. Other lessons learnt and actions to be implemented

Apart from the good practices exchanged among the participating regions, experiences and success stories come from other non participating regions in the project have been taken into account by the RGA.

This has been the case of the Basque Country region, which is one of the most proactive regions and with largest number of measures in favour of EMAS-registered organizations included in its legal framework. This region has participated and collaborate with the ENHANCE Consortium, providing information about some good practices for EMAS promotion in its region. In addition, this region, along with other Spanish regions (Madrid, Catalonia and Andalusia), is participating in another LIFE project (www.lifebraver.eu). Both projects (ENHANCE and BRAVER) are working in close collaboration in order to squeeze potential synergies.

Apart from these 4 Spanish regions, Emilia-Romagna region (Italy), Czech Republic and Slovenia are providing information about existing and potential measures that are being addressed in the framework of BRAVER project for EMAS promotion and incentives.

7. Conclusions

The capacity building and knowledge transfer processes provided key conclusions to RGA for the future improvement of EMAS implementation in Andalusia and the application of RGA's Regional Policy Instrument (ERDF Operational Program European Regional Development Fund of the Regional Government of Andalusia 2014-2020).

Particularly, the Thematic Workshops has been crucial since they provided a meeting point between participating Public Administrations and other

professionals and experts, a forum for debate to exchange ideas and opinions. They have been a success thanks to the level of commitment of EMAS-registered organizations and to the excellent progress of Public Administrations to improve the EMAS implementation in its respective regions and to reward EMAS-registered organizations with regulatory relief measures that allow saving costs and simplification of administrative burdens.

It is clear that the success of these Workshops are linked, on the one hand, to the level of commitment of the EMAS-registered organizations and, on the other hand, to the excellent progress and commitment of the Public Administrations to continuously improve this system in their regions and to reward EMAS-registered organizations with simplification and regulatory relief measures.

The evolution of the EMAS registration in Andalusia is being so positive that, in itself, it is the guarantee that the RGA is working in the right direction. In addition, the clear and appropriate commitment of the European Union through the approval of this project to give a greater importance for EMAS will increase the interest of the companies in acceding to the EMAS Scheme.

For furthering this process, a lot of measures with high impact have been developed by Public Administrations in order to encourage this voluntary instrument: from facilitating access to tax deductions, to reducing administrative fees, developing environmental fiscal and tax policy, streamlining procedures, extending deadlines, etc.

This is also one of the main reasons for the participation of the RGA in the ENHANCE project: the search for new lines that have been raised today in order to, within the current legal framework, increase the EMAS implementation and continue its positive evolution.

In this sense, the RGA is analyzing with a strong technical rigor what new incentives might be proposed, what procedures might be streamlined, what new or different channels of communication might be opened in order to improve and promote the EMAS implementation in Andalusia.

With the aim at continuously improving EMAS registration, the RGA has been working in close collaboration with its priority sectors to overcome some of the barriers faced by companies. These sectors have actively participated in the

Andalusian Stakeholder Group in order to carry out actions, that based on the learning process and exchange of good practices among the participating regions and / or countries, for EMAS promotion in Andalusia.

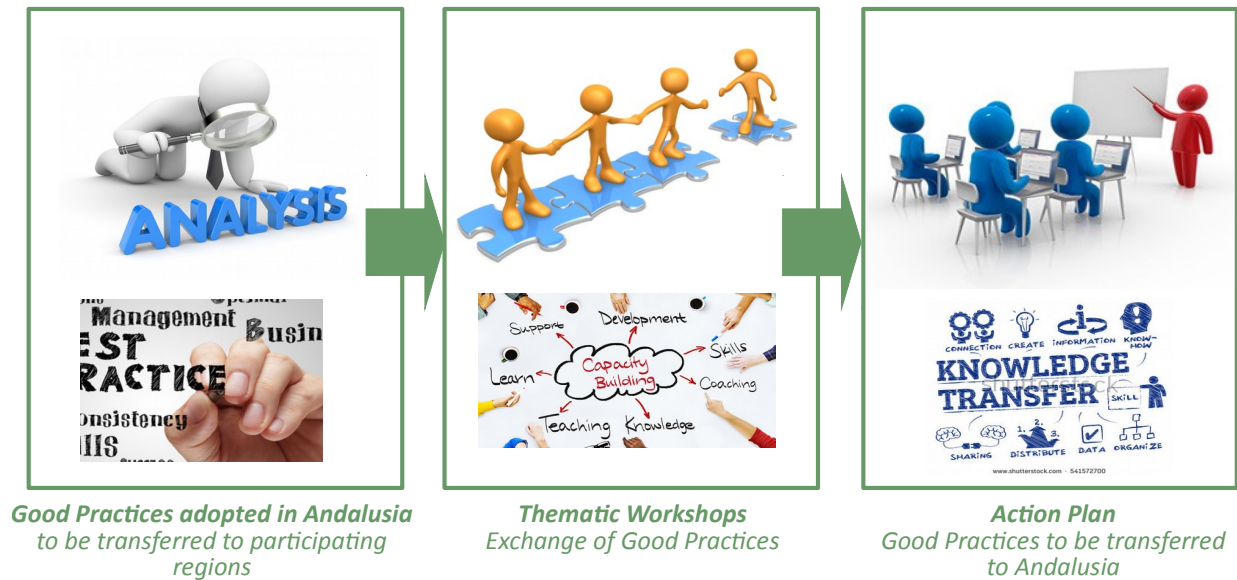


Figure 7.- Exchange of Good Practices, Transfer of Knowledge and Capacity Building in the ENHANCE project
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

The participation of these Stakeholders has been, is and will be crucial so that all actions carried out by the RGA are effective and efficient, overcoming some of the barriers faced by organizations (such as, lack of EMAS recognition market, technical support provided by Public Administrations, external incentives, etc.).

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RGA has also arranged "bilateral" meetings with specific sectors, specifically aquaculture sector, promoting SMEs growth and consolidation by promotion and development of EMAS. Searching for synergies and taking advantage of them with other Interreg projects in which RGA is involved, that is, SYMBI and GPP4Growth, has been a goal for us.

ENHANCE project has provides an example of the importance of finding cooperation ways to encourage the continuous learning and understanding among all stakeholders, leading towards better future scenarios, pursuing the support among Public Administrations, and creating synergies. The exchange of good practices and the transfer of knowledge will help the barriers faced by organizations to adopt EMAS are identified and overcome.

As a result of this interaction and cooperation, the RGA has developed this Action Plan in which concrete actions have been materialized, taking into account the Andalusian Strategy for EMAS promotion. Likewise, this Action Plan is intended to answer, to the extent possible, to the majority Andalusian Stakeholder requirements, where the RGA must focus its efforts.

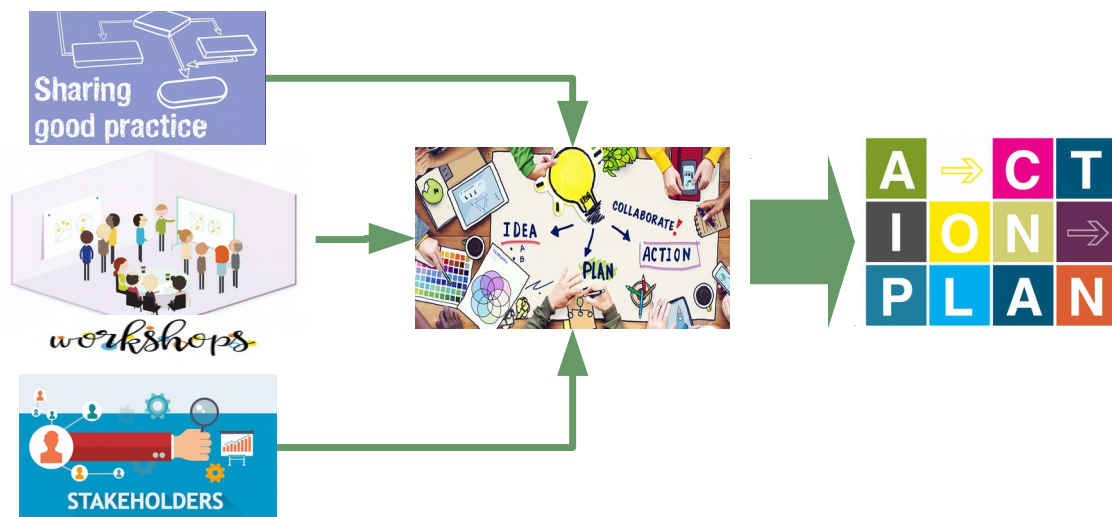


Figure 8.- Inputs for EMAS Towards Action Plan in Andalusia
(Source: prepared by RGA in October 2018)

All of this, aimed at improving the application of the Regional Policy Instrument (Operative Programme 2014-2020 in Andalusia), within the competences conferred by the RGA.