



ENHANCE
Interreg Europe



Challenges related to verification audits during COVID pandemic

ENHANCE – Interregional meeting

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Challenges related to EMAS in Estonia in recent years



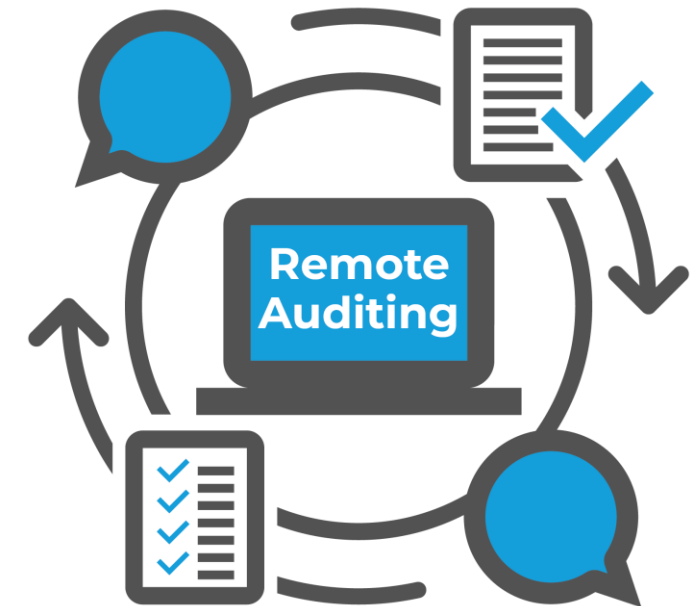
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1. COVID-19 impact to EMAS implementation and certification
2. Impact of ENHANCE project – EMAS renaissance in Estonia

COVID impact

- Society lock-down quite mild – short lock-down periods (spring 2020, spring 2021)
- Remote audits were applied during the lock-down
 - Remote audit focused mainly on document checks
 - Meetings in Teams
 - Company visits still possible in all audited companies
- Majority of companies have good digital documentation system in place
- Fast adaptation by all parties
- Overall impact to the auditing process quite modest

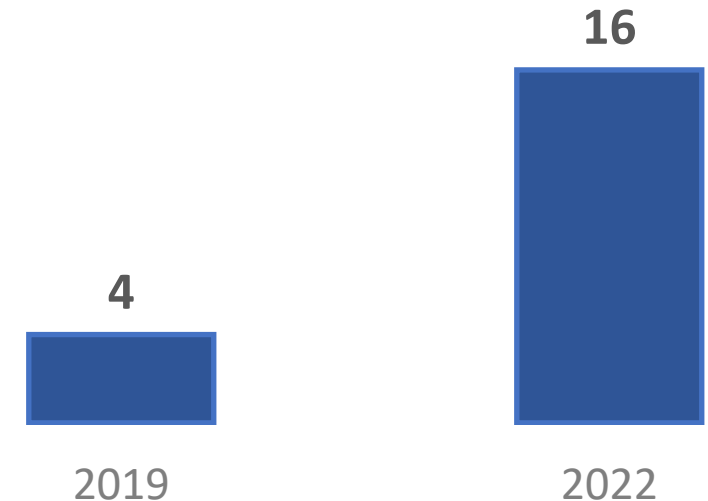


Impact of ENHANCE project

Strong influence of implementing measures developed in ENHANCE project, mainly:

1. Reduction of financial guarantees for EMAS registered waste management companies
2. Relief on energy audit requirement for EMAS registered companies

EMAS registrations in Estonia

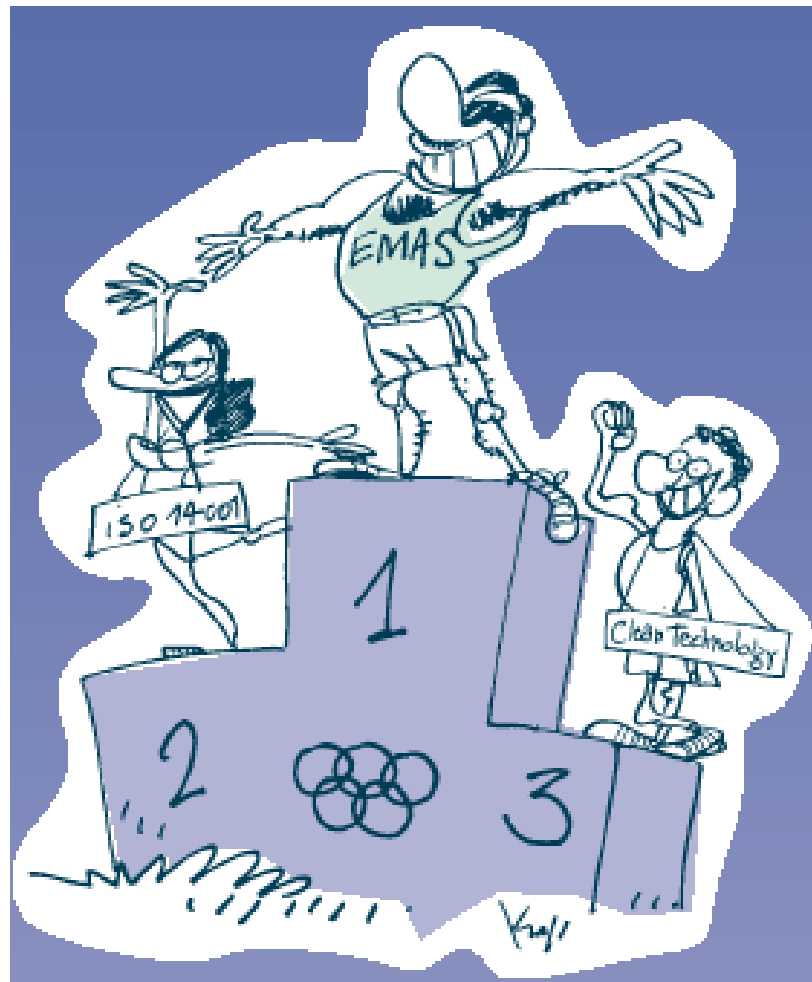


Impact of ENHANCE project - challenges

- Lack of verifiers
- Lack of capacity of competent body
- Delay in auditing process (verification + registration)
- Time gap between registration and EMAS statement
- Disputes in interpreting legal compliance between companies, verifiers and authorities
- Need to harmonise EMAS verification, validation and registration process



Thank you!



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