

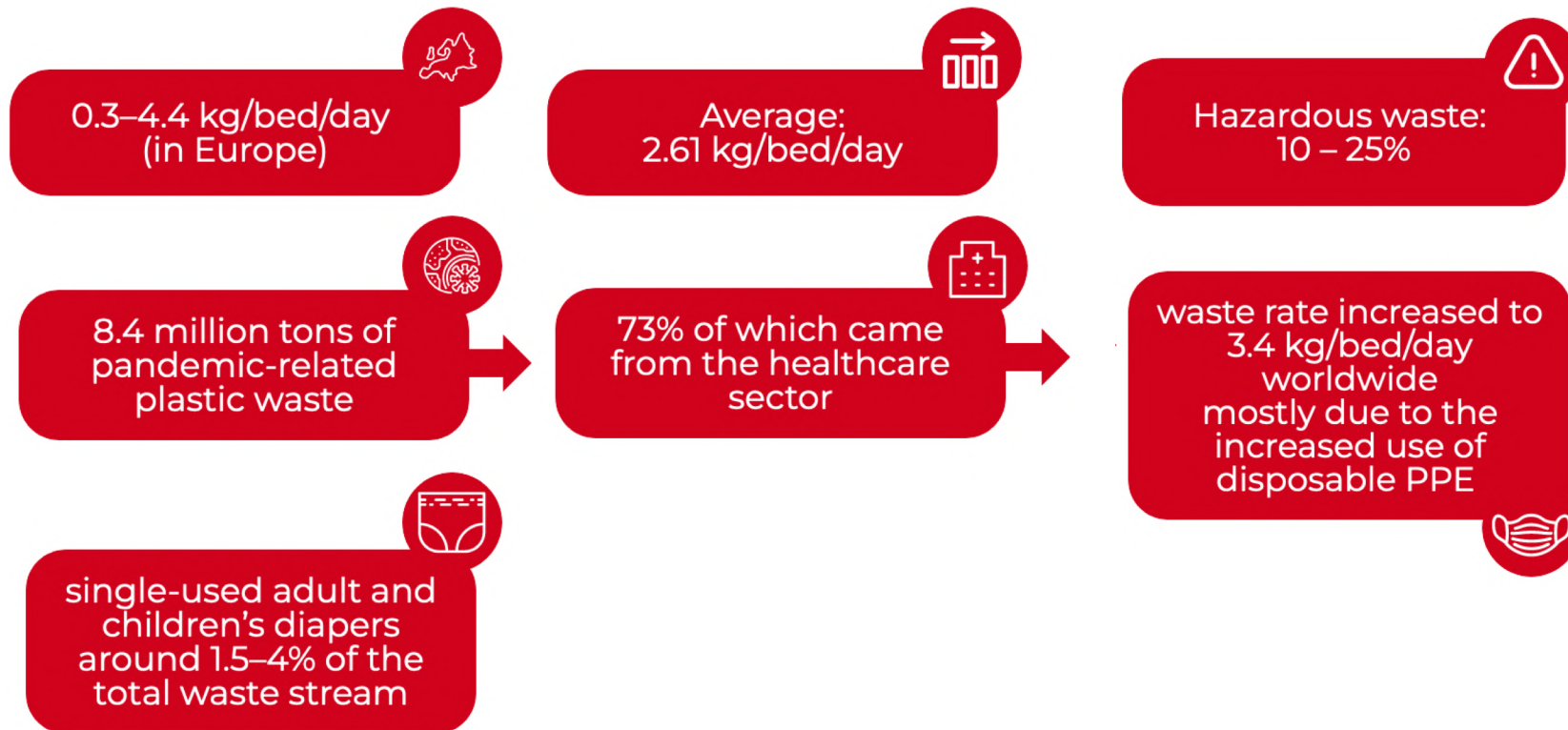
ONE health, ONE planet! How can EMAS help healthcare centres improve humans and planet's health?

The impact of the health sector on the environment
and importance of a systematic approach in
environmental management.

Environmental impact of the healthcare sector



Environmental impact of the healthcare sector



Waste is expected to continue to increase due to population growth and life expectancy.

Sources:

Singh N, Ogunseitan OA, Tang Y (2021) Medical waste: current challenges and future opportunities for sustainable management. Crit Rev Environ Sci Technol 52:2000–2022

(*) WHO (2014) Safe management of wastes from health-care activities, 2nd edn. World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

Environmental impact of the healthcare sector

Water consumption in hospitals can range from 180 to 1400 liters per capita per day, depending on hospital size, services and efficiency

Wastewater may contain various pollutants.

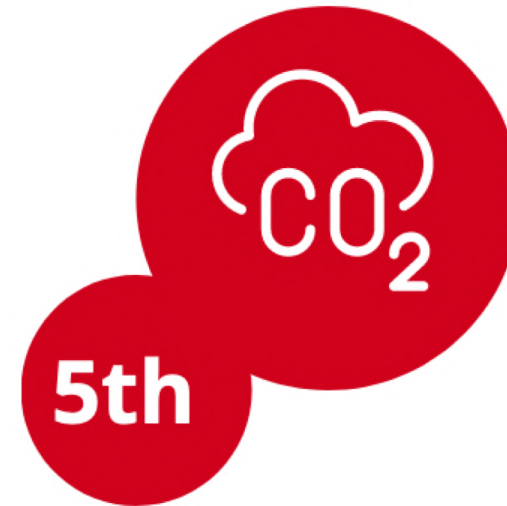
Pharmaceutical products in water can have significant negative impacts on ecosystems and human health.

- Disrupting aquatic life
- Affecting the endocrine systems of animals
- Contributing to antibiotic resistance



Environmental impact of the healthcare sector

Healthcare is responsible for between 4 and 5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and is considered the fifth largest emitter on the planet when compared to the activity of a country



Many initiatives in the healthcare sector



EU Global Health Strategy
([LINK](#))

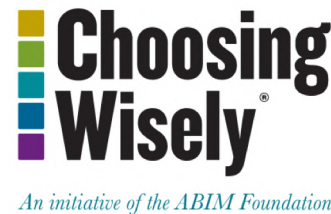


World Health
Organization

Alliance for Transformative
Action on Climate and
Health ([LINK](#))



Born Green Generation:
toxic and plastic-free
healthcare in maternity
and paediatric wards
([LINK](#))



Aims to reduce overuse
and unnecessary services
and improve patient
outcomes ([LINK](#))

Many initiatives in the healthcare sector

Some countries are adopting circular economy strategies, decarbonization plans or roadmaps:

The Netherlands - Green Deal on Sustainable Healthcare ([LINK](#))

Spanish Ministry of Health - is promoting the necessary regulatory framework for the system to be decarbonised by 2050 ([LINK](#))

Denmark has designed a strategy to reduce the impact of the sector and accelerate its transition and in 2020, Danish Regions set the goal for all public hospitals to reduce by 2030 75% of their CO₂ ([LINK](#))

UK: Design for Life roadmap - A government's plan to build a circular economy for medical technology to increase resilience, drive growth, realise cost savings and improve sustainability ([LINK](#))



Many initiatives in the healthcare sector

Other interesting initiatives:

France: A very advanced Extended Producer Responsibility System for sharps waste generated by private households (DASTRI). Is the only country in the world with a regulated collection system for this type of waste that covers the whole country.

Since 2022 also sharps that are WEEE! ([LINK](#))

Others: Refurbished medical equipment and devices, ambulances.

A huge number of initiatives and actions being implemented by different hospitals and HC centres.



these are times for action...



is a perfect time, but
a **systematic approach** is
needed to
focus efforts,
deliver concrete **results,**
be more **resilient** and also
ensure **transparency**



What is EMAS?



3 Core elements

Performance

Actions implemented by the organisation improve environmental performance and ensure legal compliance, in line with key policy targets (Circular Economy, Climate Change, Biodiversity protection, etc.).

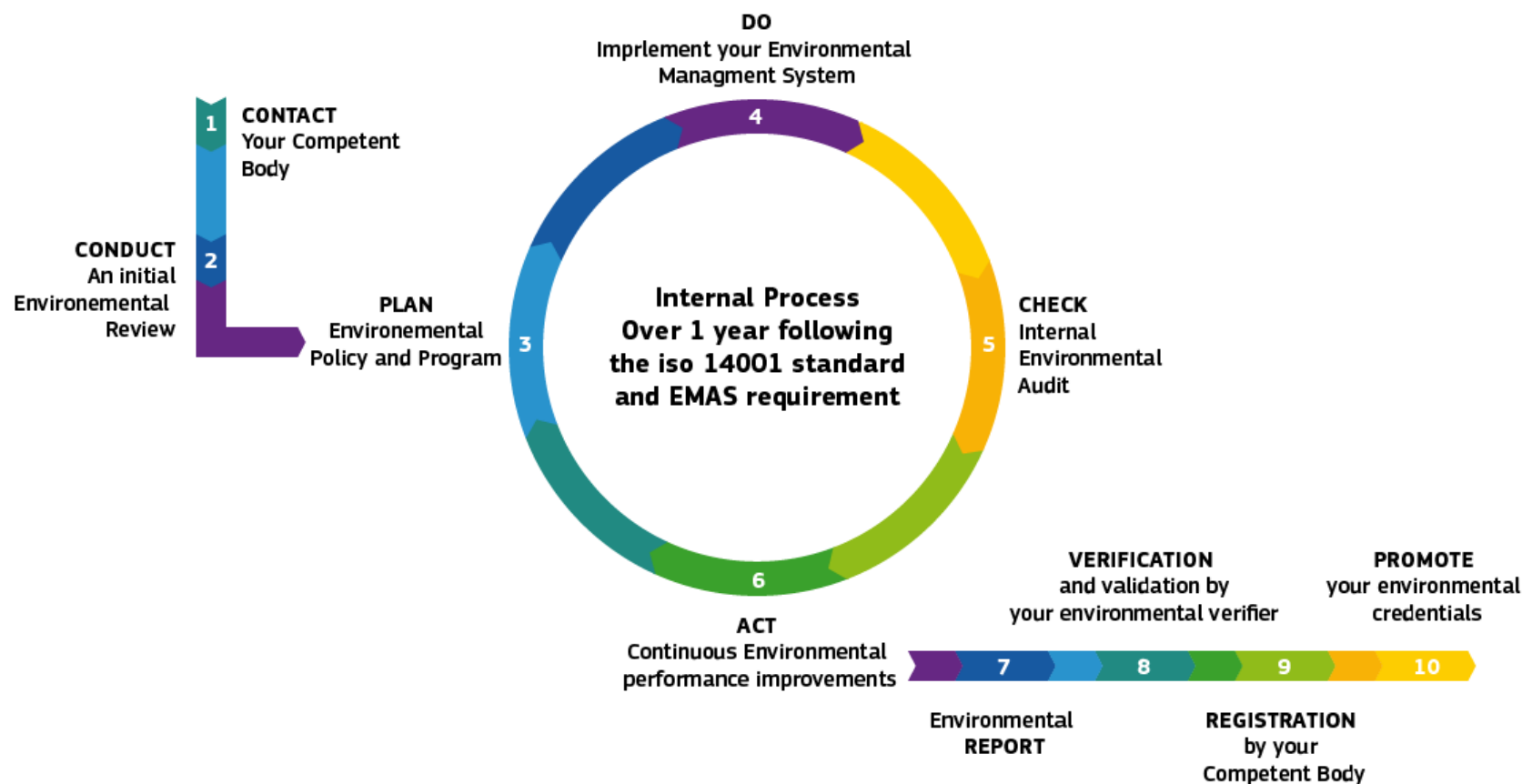
Transparency

Achievements are made public through the annual environmental statement.

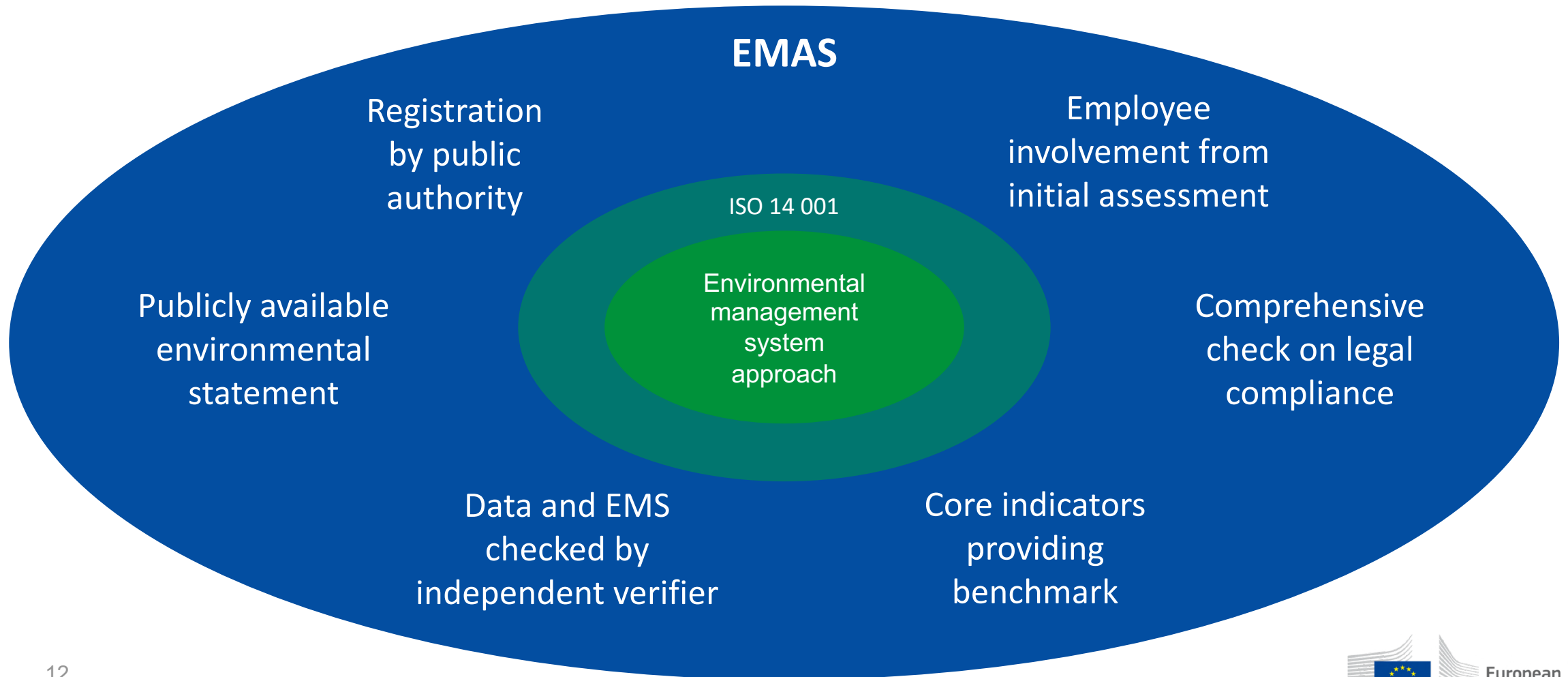
Credibility

The environmental statement is validated by independent environmental verifiers who guarantee the value of the information disclosed.

How to be EMAS-registered?



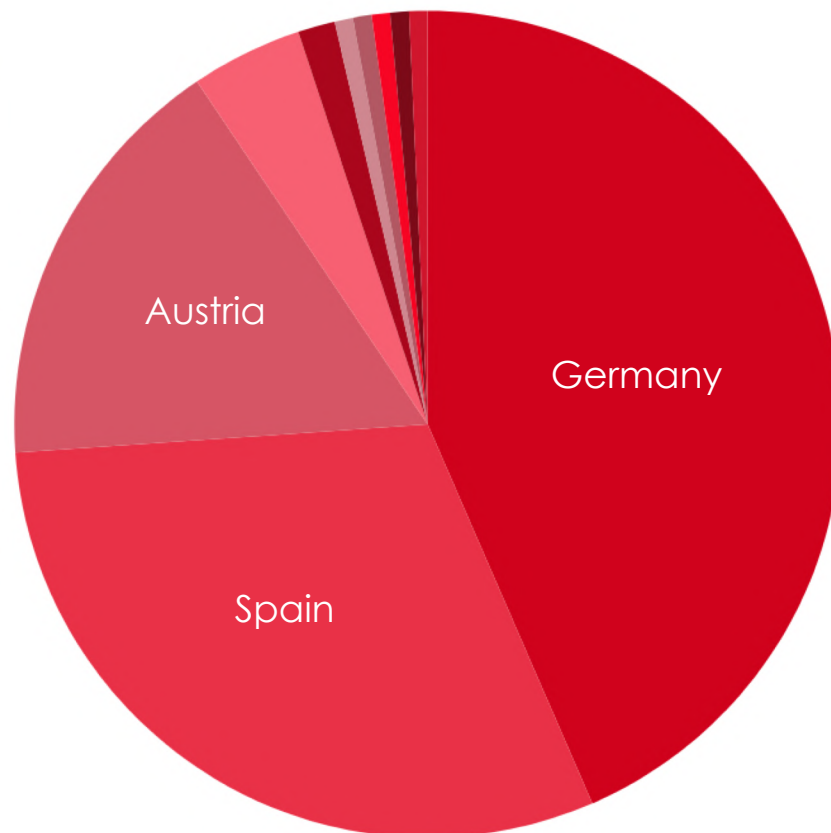
How is it different from other tools?



EMAS in the healthcare sector



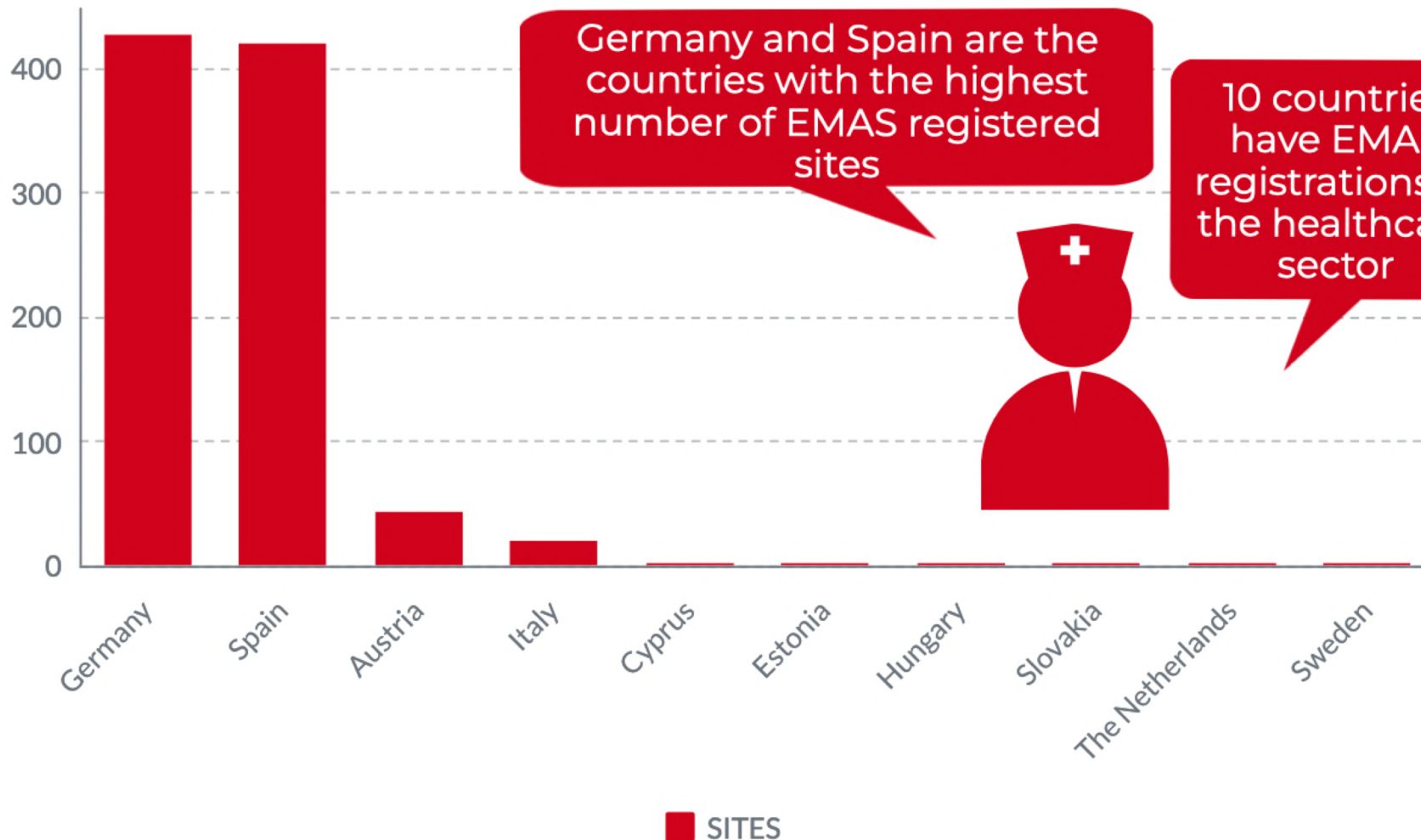
Germany is the country with the highest number of EMAS registered organizations



Between 2020 and the February 2025, EMAS registration in the healthcare sector has increased by 40% !

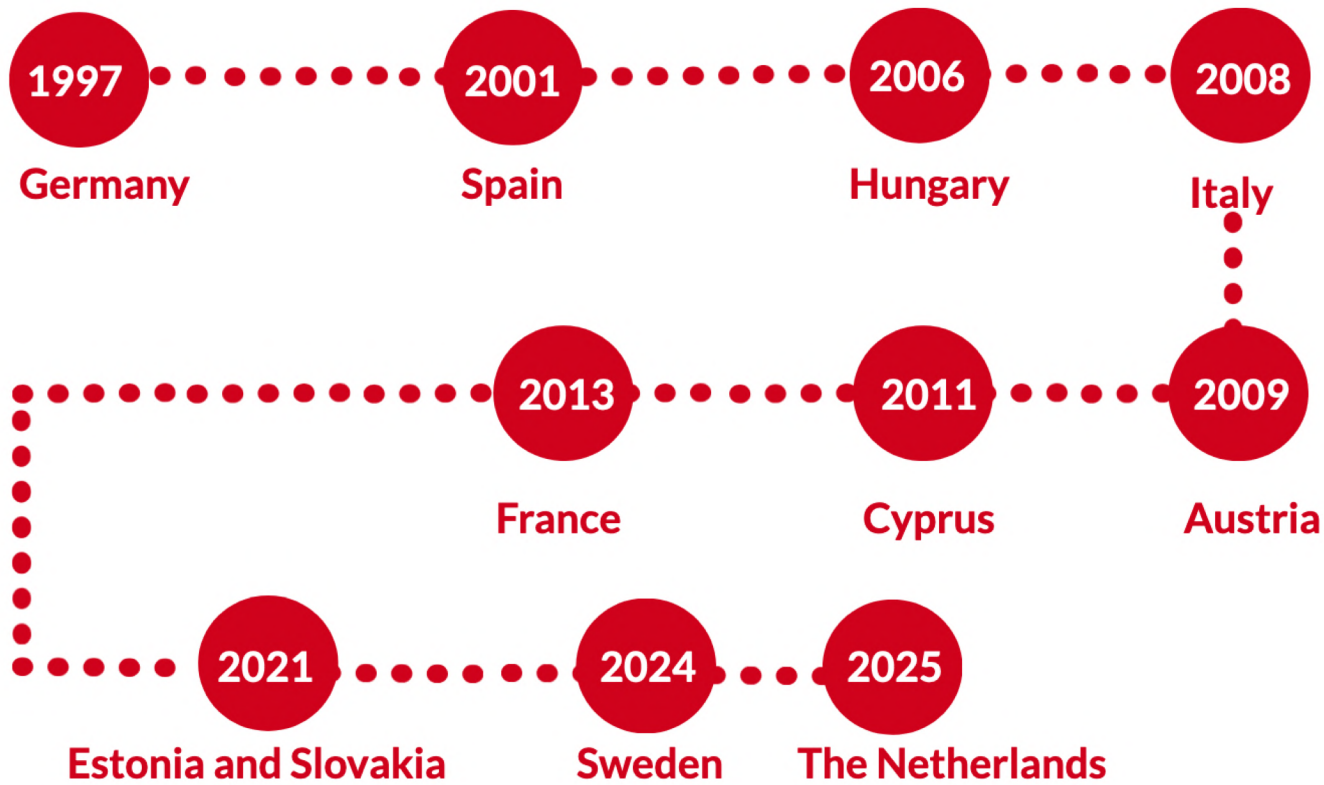
Germany (43.48%) Spain (30.43%) Austria (16.67%) Italy (4.35%) Cyprus (1.45%)
Estonia (0.72%) Hungary (0.72%) Slovakia (0.72%) The Netherlands (0.72%) Sweden (0.72%)

EMAS in the healthcare sector



EMAS in the healthcare sector

Year of the first EMAS registration in...



Germany was the first country with an EMAS registration in the healthcare sector



EMAS in the healthcare sector

Key organisations in the health sector at European level are registered under EMAS



Yes, both the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



EMAS in the healthcare sector



138
organizations



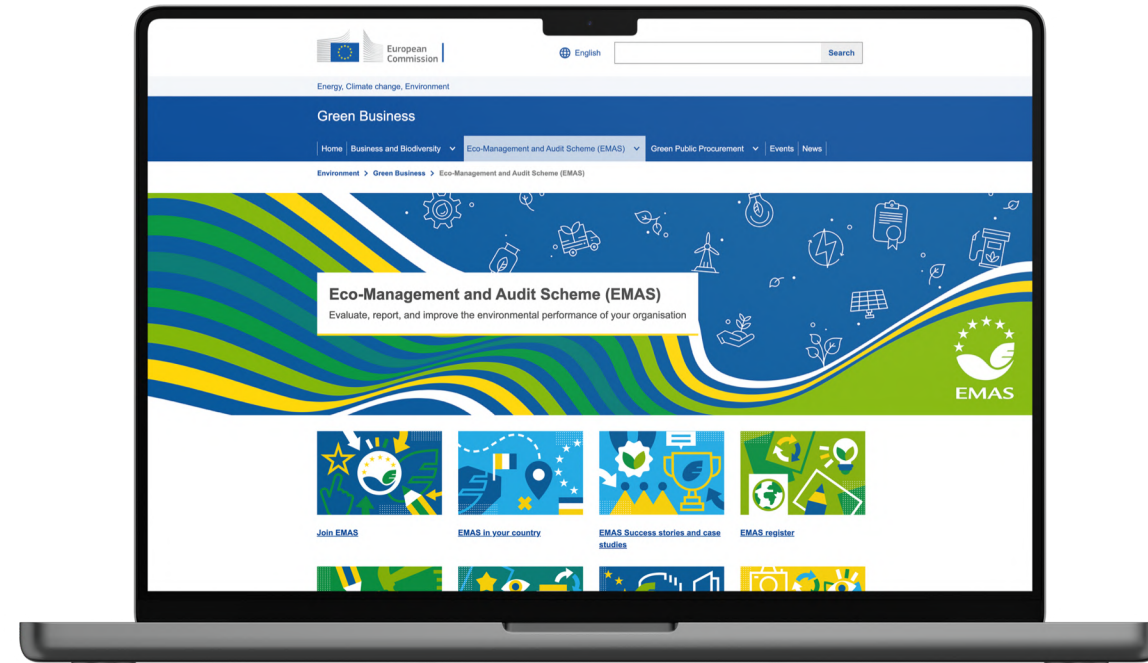
921
sites



+275.000
employees

**THEY ARE ALL TAKING CARE OF US
AND THE ENVIRONMENT!**

Visit the official EU website to learn more about EMAS



Do you want to be the next EMAS-registered organisation?

Feel free to contact your national Competent Body with any questions you may have:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emas_contacts/competent_bodies_en.htm

Or contact the EMAS Helpdesk:

Email: emashelpdesk@adelphi.de

Tel: +49 (30) 89 000 68 - 285

Fax: +49 (30) 89 000 68 – 10

The Helpdesk is operated by adelphi in cooperation with EMAS Club Catalonia, the Environment Agency Austria and 21 Solutions on behalf of the European Commission, Environment DG

EMAS Website: ec.europa.eu/environment/emas

Thank you



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