

Circular Economy and Defence Sector Sustainability through Eco-Management and Audit Scheme implementation



Introduction

Across the European Union, most armed forces operate with comparable tasks, equipment, and infrastructure. As a result, they face similar challenges in addressing environmental impacts.

To manage these challenges, Ministries of Defence and the armed forces should adopt a systematic way and tools to deal with Energy-Environment-Climate Change issues. Environmental Management Systems, and specifically the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) as a premium management tool, offers a suitable framework for this.

The military sector is estimated to account for 1-5% of global GHG emissions, comparable to those produced by the aviation and shipping industries.

According to the European External Action Service, the combined military of the EU-27 consumes energy on a scale comparable to that of a smaller Member State.

Within this framework, the CEDSEMAS project advances EMAS implementation by developing and testing a dedicated electronic tool, a cooperation platform, methodologies, material and a training/implementation programme tailored to the needs of the defence sector.

The CEDSEMAS project is fully aligned with the European Defence Agency priorities, the Incubation Forum for Circular Economy in European Defence (IF CEED) initiative and recent EU advancements in environmental management and green procurement. It addresses the specific requirements and opportunities of military operations and installations, supporting their transition towards sustainability and resilience.

Aim and objectives

The project aims at developing Proof of the Circular Economy and Defence Sector Sustainability through Eco-Management and Audit Scheme implementation executing a first step, producing tangible results and preparing the ground for further exploitation, replicability and development.

Main objectives:

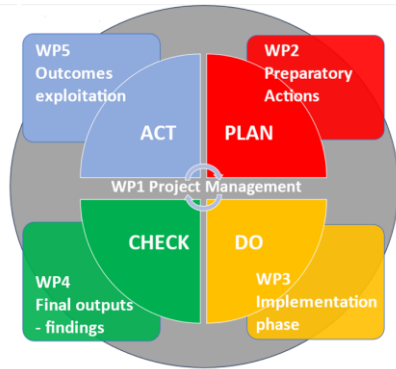
- ✦ To develop a tool tailored for the Defence Sector to be used, simplify EMAS adoption and produce guidelines for Green Armed Forces.
- ✦ To develop a training/implementation programme based on the «EMAS-DEFENCE easy» methodology; thereby, enhancing the qualifications of military personnel, and creating a pool of trained and capable staff.
- ✦ To set up an Electronic Support Platform, used by the project Ministries of Defence participants to facilitate collaboration, provide information and best practices.
- ✦ To implement, on a pilot basis, a training/coaching programme in 10 Military installations across Europe aimed at developing and implementing an Integrated Environmental - Energy - Climate Change (EEnCC) Management System.
- ✦ To finalize the above-mentioned tools, material, processes and to propose the way ahead with concrete recommendations.

Structure and Implementation

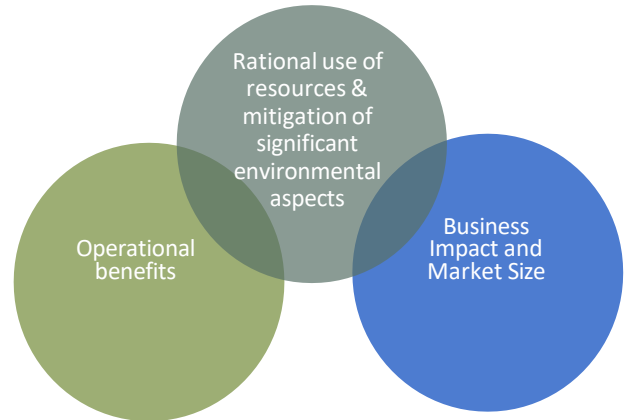
The project structure is as follows:

- ✦ **Project Management** ensures overall coordination and administrative oversight throughout the duration of the project.
- ✦ **Preparatory Actions** establish the framework for project activities implementation.
- ✦ **Implementation phase and demonstrative actions** focus on the EMAS implementation in 10 military installations in Cyprus, Greece and Portugal, including on-the-ground testing of methodologies, material and tools, training and coaching/mentoring activities and a «learning by doing» process.
- ✦ **Project final outcomes - findings** will take input from the previous activities, develop the final outputs, project findings and propose the way ahead.
- ✦ **Communication - Dissemination and outcomes Exploitation** involves compiling, publishing, and disseminating results, as well as sharing the knowledge and experience gained to support replication and further development.

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Expected Results



Alignment with EU Policies

Defence Sector Transition toward circular economy principles

Outcomes

CEDSEM addresses important actions linked to military applications and operations. The project contributes to enhance the benefits of circularity in the Defence Sector, delivering tangible results and laying down the foundation for further exploitation and replicability.

- ↳ **Enhanced environmental performance** across military installations
- ↳ **Reduced operational costs** through efficient resource utilization
- ↳ **Strengthened collaboration between EU member states** in addressing and dealing with environmental challenges and sustainability

Consortium

The CEDSEM consortium consists of two entities: CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND SAVING from Greece (Coordinator) and AEOLIKI Ltd from Cyprus (Partner).



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