



EMAS helpdesk, Juli 2011

Taking pictures for EMAS!

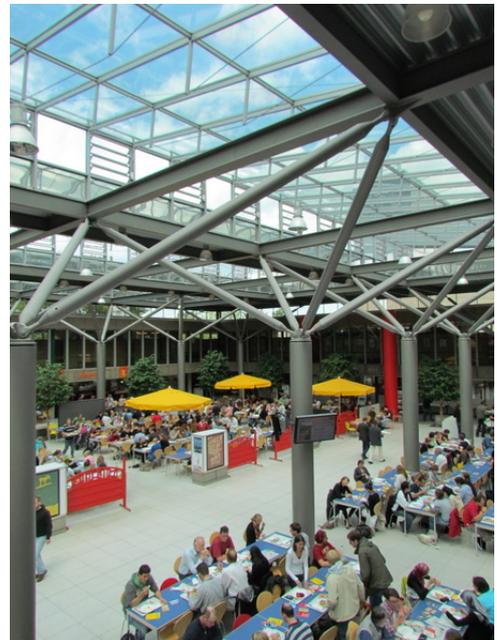
At Kiel University (Germany), which is in the process of implementing EMAS, a photo contest aimed at identifying good environmental practices has just ended. All members of the University, which is located in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the Baltic coast, were invited to submit photos of environmentally-friendly measures already being applied at the University.

Photo subjects could be, inter alia, energy efficiency and “green” buildings measures such as solar panels and biodiversity measures such as green spaces. The winners, were awarded prizes, and their photos will be displayed in university buildings.



Awarded first place: “Always nice and warm”;
Source: copyright: Gengis Duran

Awarded second place picture:
“The light”; Source: Andreas Fehler



A photo taken by the student Gengis Duran was awarded the first prize. The picture with the title “Always nice and warm” illustrated how well-insulated one of the University’s main buildings, the refectory, is. The second prize was awarded to the student Andreas Fehler, who submitted an indoor photo of the refectory. The picture, titled “The light” impressively demonstrates that energy efficiency was a key theme when the refectory was designed.

Overall, more than 40 pictures were submitted. Dr. Norbert Kopytziok, coordinator for environmental management at Kiel University, was delighted about the quality of the photos. Popular motives were bicycle storage, but also water-saving sanitary installations and motion detectors in buildings.

Dr. Kopytziok emphasised that the photo contest aimed to present environmental protection as a positive and voluntary measure in order to encourage the entire University, with its approximately 23,000 students and 3,500 employees, to participate and to follow “good practices” already existing at the University.

In the short-to-medium term the University's focus will be on reducing energy consumption in its buildings. Dr. Kopytziok estimates that energy savings of only 1 percent will be sufficient to cover the expense of registering with EMAS. The coordinator is very confident that this saving will be achieved once the scheme is fully implemented. EMAS registration is scheduled for the end of 2012.

According to Dr. Kopytziok, the University made the decision to join EMAS in 2010, since "the scheme has the best reputation among environmental management instruments". In contrast to ISO 14001, a key requirement of EMAS is the participation of stakeholders in the environmental improvement process. It is in this context that the University sees EMAS implementation not as a "top-down" but as a participatory process. For example, a working group including members of all relevant University institutions was established to coordinate EMAS-related activities. Additionally, through an "ideas pool" on the University's environmental management website, students and employees are able to make suggestions for environmental improvements.

Further information on the University's EMAS activities and the photo contest is available at www.umweltmanagement.uni-kiel.de (only in German).