

**Advanced systems for the enhancement of the  
environmental performance of WINERies  
in Cyprus (WINEC)**



**Deliverable 5**

**Successful practices related to the  
environmental performance of wineries**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report aims to present success stories of wineries in Europe and worldwide that have successfully implemented environmental practices aiming at the improvement of their overall environmental performance. The wineries included in this report have been identified within the framework of *Action 1 «Wine Industry in Cyprus and Europe»* of the WINEC project through literature and internet review while site visits in four wineries in Italy were conducted.

EMAS (EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) is considered to be the most advanced environmental management scheme presently available in Europe and is also compatible with ISO14001 the most widely known environmental management system. Therefore the WINEC project team focused on the organisation of site visits in EMAS certified wineries in Europe. At the time of organizing the site visits six EMAS wineries were identified located in Italy and in Germany. As only one EMAS winery was identified in Germany the WINEC project team focused on organizing the site visits in four wineries in Italy; in Sicily in particular where most of the EMAS wineries were located. Site visits to three EMAS certified wineries in Sicily were organized to take place on 17 and 18 January 2011. In addition a winery in Trento, north Italy that operates an MBR (membrane bioreactor) wastewater treatment plant was visited on 20 January 2011.

Since an Environmental Management System (EMS) for Tsiakkas Winery has been set up since June 2010 aiming at the improvement of the winery's environmental performance in all areas (including waste and wastewater, energy and water consumption, use of chemicals, air emissions and staff awareness) and with a particular focus on the construction and operation of a wastewater treatment plant the information gathered through these site visits was proved useful for the WINEC beneficiaries. All environmental practices of the visited wineries were demonstrated onsite and discussed with the project beneficiaries and views were exchanged in relation to the EMS of Tsiakkas Winery.

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Apart from the four wineries visited in Italy in 2010 a number of additional wineries worldwide that implement successful environmental practices were also identified. Six of them are presented at the second part of this report.

The site visits conducted indicated continuous environmental improvement and increased environmental awareness of personnel while transparency in relation to the environmental actions and procedures followed is evident. Through the visits and the review conducted a number of examples of good environmental practices have been identified in the areas of water consumption, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, energy consumption, air emissions, noise control and monitoring, chemicals and staff awareness. A strong relationship between the wineries and other stakeholders including the general public, local communities and relevant authorities, suppliers and collaborators has also been established.

The study revealed some significant conclusions indicating that despite the possible increased costs resulting from the EMS implementation and maintenance, the integration of environmental actions into everyday business practice leads to continuous improvement of environmental performance, gradual reduction of operational costs and significant business benefits.