



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN ROMANIA - CHALLENGES AND FACTS -

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ROMANIA: GENERAL DATA

- ❑ Average-size country, with an area of 238.391 km² (the 13th in Europe) and a population of about 21.7 million inhabitants
- ❑ Situated in South-Eastern Europe
- ❑ Neighbor states: Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Hungary and Serbia
- ❑ Very beautiful, diverse and balanced natural and landscape heritage
- ❑ Habitats and species from five bio-geographical regions

ROMANIA: ENVIRONMENT FEATURES (1)

- 97.8 % of the Romania's hidrographical network belongs to the Danube River Basin
- Around 38% of the Danube's length flows on the Southern part of Romania
- With an average of only 2,660 m³ water/inhabitant/year, comparatively with European average of 4,000 m³ water/inhabitant/year, Romania is one of the relatively poor countries in water sources
- 71% of the wastewater are untreated or insufficiently treated and flows directly into natural receivers

ROMANIA: ENVIRONMENT FEATURES (2)

- Only 52% of Romania's population is connected both to water and sewage services
- 363 million tones of waste were generated in 2004 – approximately 326 million tones produced by mining industry, approximately 29 million tons other production waste, approximately 8 million tons municipal waste
- About 40% of the municipal waste components represent recyclable materials, out of which about 20% can be recovered; only 2% of the recyclable materials generated is recovered
- Only 0.25 % of the total municipal waste collected is reused, while over 99% is landfilled

ROMANIA: ENVIRONMENT FEATURES (3)

- 91% of the production waste comes from mining industry
- Energy industry produces high quantity of waste - about 16 millions tones were produced in 2004
- 252 municipal landfills were operating in urban areas in 2005, out of which 234 landfills do not comply with environmental standards; there are approx. 2,686 small dumping sites in rural areas
- Natural and semi-natural ecosystems represents 47% of the entire country territory
- At present date, the surface of natural protected areas covers up to 8% from the entire country territory

FEW BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES PRINCIPLES

- **Sustainable development** (directing the country's economic and social development so that meeting current demands does not reduce possibilities for future generations to meet their demands)
- **Consistent development** (Romania's economy sectors are of unequal development stages; therefore, these differences have to be taken into account with a view to achieving sustainable development).
- **Environmental policy integration** (environmental policy should be an integral part of all national economy and territorial development strategies)
- **Precautionary principle** (must be based on forecasting, consistency and caution in prospecting consequences).
- **Polluter/User pays principle** (every responsibility including the material one for pollution or for environmental damage whilst using natural resources falls on polluters/users)
- **Prevention** (environmental damage recovery costs are higher than those for damage prevention=> prevention is a more rational action technique than attempts to solve a problem after it has occurred).
- **Use of best available technology not entailing excessive costs.** This principle maintains that whenever possible even if the set limits are not exceeded environmentally advanced and most effective technologies that at the same time do not entail excessive costs are used.
- **Subsidiary principle** (only the problems that cannot be locally resolved should be addressed at a higher level)
- **Partnership and sharing of responsibilities**
- **Information availability** (developing a mechanism for public participation in the decision-making process)

ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR: STRENGTHS (1)

GENERAL

- Almost completed harmonization of environmental legislation with the EU acquis
- Basic organizational structures for environmental protection field are in place
- Increasing awareness at decision making level for the need to apply environmental protection policies and action plans

WATER SECTOR

- Existing national policy for capacity building program in the water sector;
- Relevant steps taken for reorganization of water services towards efficiency
- Experience gained by water operators/local authorities in developing investment projects financed from PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- National Waste Management Plan and Regional Waste Management Plans in force
- Experience gained by local authorities in developing investment projects financed from Phare and ISPA

ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR: STRENGTHS (2)

AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

- Implementation of National Strategy for Atmosphere Protection; measures taken according to the Law no. 271/2003 – Geneva Convention on long range transboundary Air Pollution
- Delimitation of agglomerations and areas for the management and air quality assessment

NATURE PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- The variety and richness of the biodiversity in Romania: important natural resources
- The protected areas in Romania are already identified

ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR: WEAKNESSES (1)

GENERAL

- Relatively low level of investments in all environmental sectors, after 1990, compared to the required investments for complying with European standards
- Lack of inter-sectoral communication and coordination for the management of natural resources and of the environment

WATER SECTOR

- Insufficient wastewater treatment and sewerage network comparing with EU countries
- Low access of the population to centralized water and wastewater systems comparing with EU countries; low quality of drinking water supplied to population in many areas
- Large numbers of municipalities that are not covered by performing water companies

ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR: WEAKNESSES (2)

WATER SECTOR

- ❑ Inadequate facilities for sludge treatment
- ❑ Inefficient water management structures, especially in smaller towns
- ❑ Heavy damaging spring floods

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- ❑ High number of historically polluted sites caused by intensive economical activities in the past and inappropriate waste landfilling
- ❑ Poor infrastructure for collection, transport and disposal of waste
- ❑ Low awareness of population and economic operators regarding the adequate waste management
- ❑ High proportion of generated and landfilled quantity of waste; low level of selective collection; insufficient development of waste recycling and recovery market
- ❑ Decreasing soil quality by various types of pollution

ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR: WEAKNESSES (3)

AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

- Strong air pollution caused by large combustion plants;
- High consumption of primary resources (especially fossil fuels) and high specific emissions of NO_x and SO₂ especially resulted from LCPs

NATURE PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Low awareness of population and economic operators regarding the management of special protected areas
- Gaps in the existing protected areas network, low human and financial resources for the management of protected areas and species and habitats of community interest
- Limited number of management plans for protected areas in place
- Serious coastal erosion damage

ROMANIAN STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENT 2004 – 2010: PRIORITIES

- ❑ Implementation of environmental Community Acquis
- ❑ Development of an extensive monitoring system
- ❑ Studies to identify the real environmental costs
- ❑ Elaboration of management plans for highly polluted areas
- ❑ Introduction of waste management systems
- ❑ Development of personnel skills
- ❑ Enforcement of environmental regulations
- ❑ Definition of environmental priority areas for public investments
- ❑ Use of economic instruments such as environmental taxes, through the Environmental Fund, etc. for stimulating a better use of natural capital
- ❑ Involvement of NGOs; and encouragement of partnerships
- ❑ Public participation in policy development

ROMANIAN STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENT 2004 – 2010: OBJECTIVES

- Finalize the full transposition of the EU environmental acquis;
- Strengthen the capacity and capability of the government environmental institutions in order to effectively implement and enforce the new environmental legislation and standards;
- Develop and implement a full environmental monitoring system supporting the elaboration of effective environmental policy plans and complying with EU monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Realize integration of environmental policy in other sectoral policies;
- Public-awareness raising and public involvement in the decision-making process;
- Environmental protection, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

INSTRUMENTS TO SUPPORT THE ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR (1)

□ SOP Environment

→ Convergence Objective

→ **Programming document** which establishes the priorities, mechanisms and institutional arrangements for Structural Instruments management in the environmental sector

→ **Priority Axis of NDP 2007-2013 –“Protection and improvement of the Environment”**

→ **To be supported by CF and ERDF**

→ **Global objective:** to improve the living standards and the environment, focusing in particular on meeting the environmental Acquis

→ **Estimated financial resources:**

→ 4 .5 billions Euro - EU Funds (CF+ERDF)

→ 1.1 billions Euro – national co-financing

INSTRUMENTS TO SUPPORT THE ROMANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR (2)

- PHARE Program (National, ESC, CBC)
- ISPA Program (water and waste)
- SAMTID Program (water local infrastructure)
- SAPARD (rural infrastructure-water and sewerage)
- LIFE PROGRAM (LIFE Env-env quality and LIFE Nature-biodiversity)
- GEF (Global Environment Facility: biodiversity, climate change, desertification control, persistent organic pollutants, intl water and ozone layer protection)
- National Environmental Fund

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MISSION

To find ways to increase the total wealth at the same time with prudently use of natural resources, so as the renewable sources to be maintained and non renewable sources to be used taking into account the needs of future generations