



# ROMANIA

**Population:** 22 million  
**Capital:** Bucharest  
**Language:** Romania  
**Currency:** Romanian Leu (RON)  
**GDP per capita:** \$12,285



Romania's entry into the European Union (EU) in January 2007 was preceded by a series of government reforms in order to satisfy the conditions of EU membership. Now the requirements of membership – including EU directives – make up one of the driving forces in Romania's program of reform, modernization and investment in infrastructure. More significantly, these directives are accompanied by funding from the EU in the form of Structural and Cohesion Funds to enable the new members to align their economies with the rest of the EU.

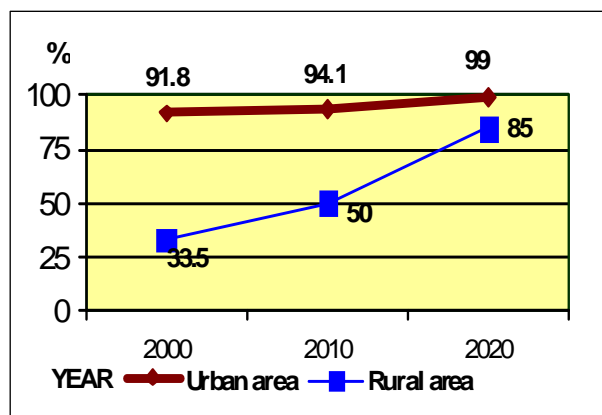
In the environmental sector, Romania needs significant investment to implement the environmental protection standards required by the EU by 2018, when all transitional periods negotiated with the European Commission will expire. Romania's obligations as well as its specific national interests regarding the environmental infrastructure are reflected in the Sectorial Operational Program for Environment (SOP). The SOP's total budget for the 2007-2013 timeframe amounts to about Euro 5.6 billion and the priority areas of investment are: improvement of quality and access to water and wastewater infrastructure, development of sustainable waste management system, reduction of pollution, nature protection and technical assistance.

## Water and Wastewater

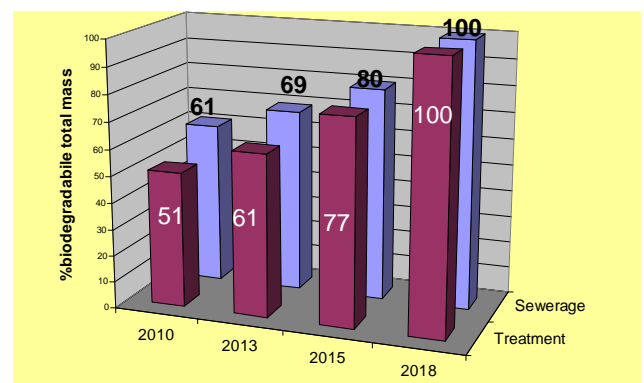
Water and wastewater services in Romania are under a re-engineering process that aims to establish a system of efficient regional water and wastewater operators. More than 79% of Romania's wastewater is either untreated or insufficiently treated and flows directly into natural receivers (such as groundwater, aquifers, rivers, etc.). Only 52% of Romania's population of approximately 21.5 million inhabitants is connected both to running water and sewage services. The part of the population with a water supply but not connected to a sewage system is about 16%, with nearly a third of the population (32%) with neither water supply nor sewage system. The issue is even more apparent in rural areas, where 67% of rural inhabitants do not have access to water supply, and more than 90% are not connected to sewage systems.

Strategic targets for Romania's water and wastewater sector:

### Population access to Water Supply



### Wastewater Treatment and Sewage



In order to achieve these strategic targets, the water and wastewater utilities will implement a number of projects:

- Construction/modernization of water sources intended for the drinking water abstraction;
- Construction/rehabilitation of water treatment plants
- Extension/rehabilitation of water and sewerage networks.
- Construction/upgrading of wastewater treatment plants
- Construction/rehabilitation of sludge treatment facilities
- Purchase of metering, laboratory equipment, leakage detection equipment etc

Purchase of goods, services and works are made through a competitive bidding system.

### **Waste Management**

In urban areas, municipal waste management is carried out through specialized services, covering about 90% of the population. However, no such services exist in rural areas. Romania has 252 municipal landfills, out of which 234 are not compliant with environmental standards; there are approximately 2,686 small dumping sites in rural areas. From the total amount of waste from industrial production, excluding mining, only 30% is recovered, the rest being disposed of by land filling or incineration. There are only seven incinerators for hazardous waste in Romania, and seven cement kilns are authorized for the co-incineration of waste. The total number of industrial landfills in Romania is 169, out of which only 15 are in accordance with EU standards. The rest will gradually be closed.

### **Air Quality Control**

Various types of particulate matter are the main air pollutants in Romania, and these exceed the maximum admissible concentration by a significant level. The main sources of pollution with particulate matter are thermal power plants using solid fuels, metallurgic and steel industries, cement factories, road transport, waste dumps and waste storage. The Large Combustion Plants (LCP), which produce power and heat, represent the main source of air pollution in many municipalities. In 26 of the largest municipalities in Romania, LCPs are the most important source of thermal energy and household hot water. The main pollution source from the LCP's are the fossil fuels (coal, fuel oil) used by these installations. They emit high concentrations of particulates, nitrogen and sulphur oxides, which cause acid rain and pose a significant health risk.

### **Trade Events**

Expo APA; June 22 - 24, 2009, [http://www.ara.ro/ExpoApa/2009/ro/Index\\_ro.html](http://www.ara.ro/ExpoApa/2009/ro/Index_ro.html)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Maria Cristina Nitoiu  
Commercial Specialist  
Commercial Service Bucharest  
Embassy of the United States  
1-5, Gen. Praporgescu St.  
Bucharest, Romania  
Tel: (40-21)200 3379  
Fax: (40-21)316 06 90  
Email: [Maria.Nitoiu@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Maria.Nitoiu@mail.doc.gov)