



ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR IN ROMANIA - Focus: Batteries recycling

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SUMMARY:

- 139 environmental projects in Romania to receive EU funds
- Romania has received EEA and Norwegian grants of 31 million EUR for environment projects
- EU Commissioner: Romania can reach 50% municipal waste recycling target by 2020
- Let's Do It, Romania! has launched special app to report illegally dumped waste
- Lafarge has invested approximately 9 million EUR in waste co-processing station
- Azomures has obtained Integrated Environmental Authorization
- Contaminated and potentially contaminated sites in Romania require 8.5 billion EUR
- Bucharest to have waste incinerator by 2020
- Alba Council has finalised 5 waste investment objectives
- Investment of 11 million EUR in waste stations in Mehedinti
- ECOTIC has managed over 12,500 tonnes of WEEE in 2015
- Focus - Batteries recycling in Romania
- Profiles of companies involved in collecting, storing and recycling batteries

Romanian projects in the waste and wastewater infrastructure sectors, projects monitoring the air quality, projects on contaminated sites, flood prevention projects are lined up for EU funding between 2014 - 2020. FRD Center is constantly monitoring the environmental and recycling sector in Romania, facilitating access of foreign players to local opportunities.

This newsletter is produced by FRD Center Market Entry Services – www.frdcenter.ro - one of the pioneer privately owned market entry consulting firms in Romania and the region.

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Sources consulted for this report: business mass media, the companies, official sources

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139 environmental projects in Romania to receive EU funds

Through the Large Infrastructure Operational Programme (LIOP) 2014 – 2020, 139 environmental projects in Romania with the total value of almost 8 billion EUR are expected to receive EU financing.

110 projects are in the water and wastewater infrastructure sector and require investments of over 7 billion EUR, out of which approximately 3 billion EUR represents LIOP allocation. Furthermore, the list includes 21 projects in the waste infrastructure sector with the total value of almost 572 million EUR, three projects in the air quality monitoring sector, two projects on contaminated sites, two flood prevention projects and one risk management project.

Romania receives 31 mil EUR EEA and Norwegian grants for environment

So far, Romania has received European Economic Area (EEA) and Norwegian grants of over 31 million EUR for environment projects.

One recent project - Calea Verde spre Dezvoltare Durabila (Green Path to Sustainable Development) - has the value of 4.5 million EUR, out of which non-reimbursable funding of 3.8 million EUR. The money comes from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, through the 2009 - 2014 EEA grants. The project has started in January 2015 and will continue until January 2017. It targets to reduce the human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change.

EU Commissioner: Romania can reach 50% waste recycling target by 2020

According to the European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Romania can reach the 50% municipal waste recycling target by 2020. One of the main solutions is the involvement of the citizens in the “door to door” collection process. Romania has reached the threshold of 3%, but the country has committed to the EU to reach a 50% target by 2020.

Let's Do It, Romania! has launched special app to report illegally dumped waste

The Let's Do It, Romania! organization has launched recently a special app via which people can report illegally dumped waste to the authorities. During the period August - December 2015, the volunteers have reported a total of 263 such areas.

Approximately 140 complaints have reached the legal 30-day deadline for cleaning, out of which 131 have been resolved and the areas have been cleaned. Bucharest ranks first among the most active regions, with 700 digital volunteers having used the app, followed by Cluj (124), Timis (82), Brasov (77), Iasi (72), Constanta (59) and Prahova (54).

Lafarge invests approx 9 million EUR in waste co-processing station

Lafarge, currently acquired by CRH, has invested 9.3 million EUR in building a waste co-processing station in Medgidia (SE Romania). The project has received non-reimbursable funds of 3.5 million EUR through the European Regional Development Fund.

The waste co-processing plant is expected to help the company dispose the waste in a controlled way, by using it as fuel in its production process. Therefore, it will reduce the production costs of its Medgidia plant and the fossil fuel consumption.

Azomures has obtained Integrated Environmental Authorization

The domestic producer of chemical fertilizers, Azomures, part of Ameropa Group, has obtained at the beginning of 2016 the Integrated Environmental Authorization, after reaching the objectives imposed by the national environmental authorities.

During 2012 - 2015, Azomures has implemented an investment programme of over 240 million EUR in order to revamp and modernise its equipment. The investment implied the construction of a new industrial water treatment station and the modernisation of key equipment on the platform (such as the Urea plant and the Ammonia installation)

Contaminated sites in Romania require 8.5 billion EUR

In Romania, over 200 sites are contaminated and over 2,000 are potentially contaminated. These sites are oil puddles surrounding oil wells and places where mining, metallurgy and chemical activities have been carried out.

The cost to evaluate and remedy the pollution amounts to 8.5 billion EUR, according to the Government officials. The whole process of decontamination could take 30-35 years. The most affected areas are in the Hunedoara, Caras Severin, Cluj, Bihor, Giurgiu, Arges and Maramures counties.

The Government has approved in August 2015 the National Strategy to Manage Contaminated Sites. It targets to solve the problems requiring urgent action by 2020 and to complete the cleaning of these sites by 2050.

Bucharest to have waste incinerator by 2020

The waste incinerator in Bucharest is expected to be launched by 2020, following estimated investments of approximately 230 million EUR, according to the representatives of Bucharest City Hall. The project will be financed using EU funds. The

incinerator will have the capacity of 300,000 - 350,000 tonnes per year. At present, the selective waste collection in Bucharest is made through pilot-projects.

Alba Council has finalised 5 waste investment objectives

The Alba County Council has finalised in December 2015 five investment objectives within the project “Integrated waste management system in Alba county”, using EU funds, respectively the closure works of urban nonconforming deposits in Abrud, Aiud, Blaj, Campeni and Ocna Mures. The total value of these investments exceeds 13.5 million RON (approx. 4 million EUR).

Investment of 11 million EUR in waste stations in Mehedinti

The construction works of the waste mechanical, biological treatment and sorting stations in Malovat, Mehedinti county have been finalised in December 2015, following investments of 11 million EUR. The works are part of the project “Integrated waste management system in Mehedinti county”, financed through Sectoral Operational Programme – Environment.

Furthermore, the Mehedinti authorities have announced that, at the end of the first semester of 2016, the irregular household waste landfills in the Strehaia, Baia de Arama and Vinju Mare localities will be closed.

ECOTIC has managed over 12,500 tonnes of WEEE in 2015

ECOTIC is the first scheme of producers and importers of electric and electronic equipment (EEE) in Romania. ECOTIC has managed over 12,500 tonnes of WEEE in 2015, up by approximately 14% compared to 2014. In 2015, ECOTIC has represented over 500 producers and has had over 900 collection centres at national level.

FOCUS - BATTERIES RECYCLING

Romanians throw away over 50 million of waste batteries and accumulators per year, this representing approximately 1,150 tonnes of wastes containing heavy metals.

Starting with January 2016, the collecting target for waste portable batteries and accumulators is 45% of the quantity of all the batteries released on the market.

According to official statistics data, in 2012, the average batteries collecting rate at national level has recorded approximately 11% and the collecting rate of waste portable

batteries has reached 6.5%. Romanian authorities are not able to provide more recent data.

The Association Sistemul National de Reciclare a Bateriilor (SNRB) is a Romanian organisation whose target is to ensure that the producers and importers of batteries and accumulators meet the legal obligations with respect to responsible management of waste batteries and accumulators (collecting, treating, recycling and recovering), in compliance with EU Directive. SNRB is a founding member of EUCOBAT - European Compliance Organisation for Batteries.

Since 2013, SNRB has been very involved in establishing a national network of waste batteries collection points with adequate infrastructure, both in big cities and rural localities. As a result, approximately 100 tonnes of batteries have been collected at the end of 2015 – the equivalent of some 4.5 million pieces, mainly due to the information and stimulation campaign for selective collection of waste portable batteries “Priveste Partea Pozitiva” (Look on the Bright Side) at national level and due to launching the Interactive Recycling Map.

At present, SNRB provides citizens with around 3,000 collection recipients distributed at national level in retail networks, supermarkets, oil stations, through partners such as Kaufland, Flanco, UPC, Germanos, Telekom, Mol Romania, Emag, Socar or Chicco.

SNRB targets to increase the number of the collection points, counting on the involvement of the companies and members but also on the citizens' positive feedback. Furthermore, SNRB aims to continue in 2016 the development of the interactive map, by integrating the national network with the highest density of collection points of waste batteries and accumulators.



The municipal battery and accumulators waste storage warehouses that are compliant with and according to the requirements currently are:

County	Town	Managed by
Bacau	Bacau	Bacau City Hall
Neamt	Piatra Neamt	Brantner Servicii Ecologice S.A.
Neamt	Girov	Neamt County Council
Iasi	Tutora	Salubris S.A.
Galati	Tirighina	Ecosal Public Service
Braila	Muchea	Tracon S.R.L.
Buzau	Galbinasi	RER Servicii Ecologice S.R.L.
Constanta	Ovidiu	Tracon SRL
Constanta	Costinesti	Iridex Group Import-Export SRL
Constanta	Mangalia- Albesti	Eco Gold Invest S.A.
Constanta	Incinta Port	Iridex Group Import-Export S.R.L.
Tulcea	Vararie	Ecorec S.A.
Ialomita	Slobozia	Vivani Salubritatea S.A
Prahova	Ploiesti- Boldesti	Veolia Servicii Pentru Mediu
Prahova	Valenii de Munte	Termoelectrica S.A.
Arges	Albota	Arges County Council
Dambovita	Aninoasa	Dambovita County Council

Dambovita	Titu	Dambovita County Council
Teleorman	Mavrodin	Teleorman County Council
Dolj	Mofleni	Ecosud S.R.L.
Gorj	Tg. Jiu	UEG Mediu Austria
Valcea	Feteni	Ramnicu-Valcea City Hall
Mehedinti	Halanga	Brantner Servicii Ecologice S.A.
Arad	Arad	ASA Arad Servicii Ecologice SRL
Bihor	Oradea	Ecobihor S.R.L.
Brasov	Brasov	Fin-Eco S.A.
Mures	Sighisoara	Schuster Ecosal S.R.L
Harghita	CeKend- Odorhei	Aveharghita Salubritate S.R.L.
Sibiu	Cristian	Tracon S.R.L Braila
Bucuresti	Chiajna	Iridex Group Import Export
Ilfov	Glina	Ecorec S.A.
Ilfov	Vidra	Eco Sud S.R.L.
Satu Mare	Dobra	Satu Mare County Council
Timis	Ghizela	Timis County Council
Bistrita Nasaud	Tarpiu- Dumitra	Vitalia S.R.L.

According to the Romanian authorities, there are over 1500 companies and entities officially authorised to collect batteries and accumulators in Romania.

Some of the main ones are

Remat Calarasi, part of Tawil Group, is specialised in the collection, recovery and trade of batteries and metal scrap. The company has working points with the total surface of approximately 92,000 sqm in the Calarasi county (Southern Romania). Remat Calarasi

processes over 9,000 tonnes of scrap monthly, mainly non-ferrous scrap. Remat Calarasi has recorded a net turnover of 108 million EUR in 2014. It has a team of over 110 employees.

Established in 2003, **Rematholding Co** collects, recovers and trades recyclable waste: ferrous, non-ferrous, plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, wood, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, accumulators and hazardous waste. Furthermore, it performs auto dismantle activities. So far, Rematholding Co has invested over 40 million EUR in technologies and equipment. In 2014, Rematholding Co has reached a net turnover of some 92 million EUR. The company has around 230 employees.

Romrecycling, part of Ecore Group, is specialised in the collection, recovery and trade of ferrous and non-ferrous materials, paper and cardboard, plastic, batteries and industrial waste. Romrecycling has registered a net turnover of approximately 63 million EUR in 2014. It has over 70 employees.

Remat MG, part of Müller-Guttenbrunn Group, offers recycling services for End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV), Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), batteries, ferrous scrap, non-ferrous scrap, cables or plastics. In 2015, Remat MG has opened a new facility to treat the non-ferrous shredder residue fraction. The new sorting line has an installed capacity of 5 MT / hour. Remat MG has recorded a net turnover of some 58 million EUR in 2014. The company has almost 200 employees.

Rematinvest collects, recovers and trades recyclable ferrous, non-ferrous, paper, cardboard and battery waste. The company has working points in the NW and Western regions of the country. Rematinvest has reached in 2014 a net turnover of almost 51 million EUR. It has around 200 employees.

For other sector data, for commercial and investment opportunities in Romania and the region, please feel free to contact us directly.

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