



WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN ROMANIA

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DEMO REPORT

by

FRD Center Market Entry Services

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1. General overview of water and wastewater management in Romania

Romania has been member of the European Union (EU) since 2007. The country has a population of over 21.5 million inhabitants.

Romania is the largest state in the Danube River Basin. Each Romanian citizen disposes of some 1.870 m³ of water / inhabitant / year. Romania draws its drinking water from surface waters, such as the Danube River, and groundwater resources.

The biggest challenges in the water and wastewater management sectors in Romania are:

- development and reform of the water sector
- problems related to climate changes (e.g. large fluctuations in available water amounts in rivers and lakes)
- unbalanced access to water (many consumers without access to piped water)
- water pollution
- deteriorated water distribution and sewer networks
- old and deteriorated wastewater treatment plants
- need for new wastewater treatment facilities



The water supply and disposal situation in Romania is characterised by the following data:

- 91% of the urban population has access to piped drinking water
- Only 21% of the rural population has access to piped drinking water
- 9.2 million people (43% of the total population) are connected to urban wastewater collecting systems
- 3.9 million people (18% of the total population) have access to wastewater treatment plants with sufficient treatment
- 18 m³/s of untreated wastewater are currently discharged

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2. EU funding used for water and wastewater management in Romania

According to the EU Water Framework Directive, the main objective of the water management policy in Romania is to reach by 2015 “good ecological status” for all waters, through the integrated management of the water resources.

The strategy and the distribution of the funds on the environment sectors in Romania are performed through the Sector Operational Programme Environment (SOP Environment). The programme covers the period of 2007 - 2013.



The SOP Environment has the following priority axes:

- Priority Axis 1 - Extension and modernisation of water and wastewater systems
- Priority Axis 2 - Development of integrated waste management systems and rehabilitation of historically contaminated sites
- Priority Axis 3 - Reduction of pollution and mitigation of climate change by restructuring and renovating urban heating systems towards energy efficiency targets in the identified local environmental hotspots
- Priority Axis 4 - Implementation of adequate management systems for nature protection
- Priority Axis 5 - Implementation of adequate infrastructure of natural risk prevention in most vulnerable areas
- Priority Axis 6 - Technical assistance

One of the specific objectives of the SOP Environment is to improve the quality and access to the water and wastewater infrastructure, by providing water supply and wastewater services in most urban areas by 2015 and by setting efficient regional water and wastewater management structures.

According to the Romanian Government, 290 projects were submitted, 170 projects were approved and the total payments to the beneficiaries were of 1,348.29 million RON, within the SOP Environment, during the period 2007 - February 2011.

3. Recent water and wastewater management projects in Romania

3.1 Water treatment plant launched in December 2010 in Bacau

The first raw water treatment plant in Bacau was launched in December 2010, following investments of 7.5 million EUR. The project was financed using EU funds. Following these investments, the quality of the drinking water in Bacau fully complies with the EU requirements.

The new station, which is located on the Barati hill, in the Magura commune, treats the raw water coming from the accumulation lake in Poiana Uzului. The treatment plant can process a maximum volume of 730 l / s, representing 63,000 m³ / day. In average conditions, the plant will treat 56,000 m³ / day, representing 650 l / s.

3.2 Modernisation and rehabilitation of water and sewerage infrastructure in Timisoara

In 2010, Aquatim invested in the modernisation and rehabilitation of the water and sewerage infrastructure on various streets in Timisoara. Aquatim is the local operator of public water services.

The investments in the water supply system were of some 442,000 EUR and were finalised using the Aquatim's own funds. The investments in the sewerage network were of 1.6 million EUR and were financed using the EU funds, through the ISPA programme. The rehabilitation works at the water supply system started in March 2010 and were finalised in December 2010.

The purpose of these works was to increase the inhabitants' comfort, to reduce the operating expenditures and the water losses and to improve the quality of the services offered.



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3.3 Water treatment plant launched in 2010 in Amara

The public authorities in Amara (Ialomita county) finalised at the end of 2010 a project ensuring the adequate quality of the drinking water in the city, through a project financed by EU funds.

The project included the water supply from own water wells, drilled on the territory of the Amara city, the construction of a water treatment station, the water network expanding with 3.7 km and the connecting of three streets to the sewerage system by the system expanding with 1.8 km. The investment in this project exceeded 0.9 million EUR. Some 8,000 inhabitants are the beneficiaries of the project.

The new service of water supply in Amara will operate under the local public control, during a minimum period of three years. After this period, the authorities intend to lease the water service.

3.4 Wastewater treatment plant in Baia Mare rehabilitated by Veolia Romania

After 36 months work, Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies Romania finalised the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant in Baia Mare in October 2010.

The final beneficiary of the project is SC Vital SA Baia Mare - the local water management company. The value of the contract was of 11.6 million EUR.

The station's treatment capacity is of 1,448 l / s for a population of 165,000 inhabitants. The station is entirely managed through a SCADA system.

3.5 Works at water treatment plant in Gilau finalised in July 2010

The works at the water treatment plant in Gilau (Cluj county) were finalised in July 2010. The works included the instalment of a new water intake and of a pipeline for adduction of the raw water at the Tarnita lake and works for the improvement of the water treatment.

The project's beneficiary is Compania de Apa Someș, which is subordinated to the Cluj County Council.

The contract was part of the project ISPA 2000/RO/16/P/PE/008-03. The contract's value was of 10,124,551 EUR, out of which 74.88% represented ISPA funds.

4. Current and future water and wastewater management projects

4.1 Expansion and rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructure - in progress in Iasi

The contract for the expansion and the rehabilitation of the water and wastewater infrastructure in the Iasi county was signed in August 2010. The project includes investments in water sources, water treatment stations, water networks and wastewater collecting and treatment systems. The project will be implemented by Apavital.

The beneficiaries of this project will be 814,000 inhabitants in Iasi, Harlau, Targu Frumos, Podu Iloaiei, Holboca, Tomesti, Barnova, Ciurea, Miroslava, Scobinti and Ion Neculce localities in the Iasi county. The project will be implemented during 2010 - 2013. The works are divided on modules that will be executed by various companies.

The project has the value of some 142 million EUR, out of which some 103 million EUR represent EU funds.

4.2 Modernisation of drinking water treatment plant - in progress in Medias

In November 2010, Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies Romania signed a contract of some ten million EUR for the refurbishment of the drinking water treatment plant with the local water operator of the Medias city - Apa Tarnavei Mari. The project uses EU funds, under the SOP Environment.

The solutions offered by Veolia, which enable the treatment of the raw water with heavy organic charge, with a turbidity mounting up to 6,000 NTU, were selected following an open tender procedure held by Apa Tarnavei Mari. The refurbishment of the drinking water treatment plant in Medias is the first contract won by Veolia Romania under the SOP Environment.

The 24 months' project will include technologies such as ozonation, Multiflo trio, Actiflo carb, sand filters, activated carbon filters, UV treatment and chlorination. The flow of the station is of 888 l / s.

4.3 Water and wastewater infrastructure works - in progress in Prahova

In October 2010, the Prahova public authorities approved a project that includes the rehabilitation and the expansion of the water supply and sewerage networks (including the

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pumping stations), the rehabilitation and the modernisation of the wastewater treatment plants and the construction of two new treatment stations.

The project value is of 159,689,000 EUR, out of which the eligible value through the SOP Environment is of 117,600,000 EUR, the rest being financed through a partnership at the county and local level.

The project is implemented by Hidro Prahova SA - the regional operator of public water supply and sewerage services. The project will include the following localities in the Prahova county: Azuga, Busteni, Sinaia, Comarnic, Breaza, Campina, Banesti, Baicoi, Plopeni, Valenii de Munte, Teisani, Mizil and Urlati.

4.4 Rehabilitation and expansion of water and sewerage networks - in progress in Slatina

The works for the rehabilitation and expanding of the water and sewerage networks in Slatina city began in October 2010. The works started in the most affected areas of the city.

The rehabilitation works are necessary due to the fact that, in some zones of the city, during heavy rainfalls, the water cannot be taken over by the old sewage networks and the water level increases to 40 - 60 cm above the roadway and often leads to road traffic disruption.

4.5 Expansion and rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructure - in progress in Vrancea

The project Vranceaqua that targets the expansion and rehabilitation of the water and wastewater infrastructure in the Vrancea county, has the total value of 107 million EUR. The project is co-financed by EU and national funds. The tender for these works was won by Hidroconstructia.

The beneficiaries of the Vranceaqua project will be some 160,000 inhabitants and the works will be executed during 2010 - 2013. The project targets the Focsani, Adjud, Panciu, Marasesti, Odobesti, Golesti, Cimpineanca and Homocea localities. The project includes the rehabilitation of the water wells, the drinking water treatment stations and the adduction pipes, the expansion of the water supply system, the expansion and the rehabilitation of the sewerage networks and the construction of five new wastewater treatment plants.

4.6 Water treatment station to be constructed in Beclean

A water treatment station will be constructed in Beclean (Bistrita Nasaud county), with investments of some 5.7 million EUR. Aquabis, the firm that supplies the drinking water in the Bistrita Nasaud county, is the beneficiary of the project.

The project's financing is ensured by EU funds (76.97%), state budget funds (11.77%), local budget funds (1.81%) and a credit contracted by Aquabis (9.45%). The project's finalising period is of 27 months.

Over 83 million EUR will be invested by 2013 in order to expand the water network in the Bistrita Nasaud county, using EU funds, budget and local funds and bank credits. Through the project "Expanding and modernising the water and wastewater infrastructure in the Bistrita Nasaud county", financed by the SOP Environment, over 18,000 inhabitants in the Bistrita Nasaud county will be connected to the drinking water network and over 30,000 inhabitants will be connected to the wastewater network.

4.7 Rehabilitation works of water and sewerage networks to start in Baia Mare

The works for the rehabilitation of the water and sewerage networks in Baia Mare are expected to start in the spring of 2011.

The project has the value of ten million EUR. The public authorities in Baia Mare will use EU funds for the financing of this project.

4.8 Expansion and modernisation of water and wastewater networks to start in Bihor

The project related to the expansion and the modernisation of the water and wastewater networks in the Bihor county has the value of 102 million EUR. The works for this project are expected to start in the summer of 2011. The beneficiaries of this project are some 237,298 inhabitants and represent almost 40% of the total population in the Bihor county.

The project will be financed using funds from the EU, the state and local budget and resources of the local operator Compania de Apa Oradea. The project's purpose is to ensure water supply and sewerage services according to the EU requirements.

The project is split in 14 works, out of which five works will take place in the Oradea city and nine works in other localities in the Bihor county. In Oradea, 54.5 km of water networks will be rehabilitated and 37.8 km of water networks will be expanded.

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5. Relevant organisations

5.1 National Administration “Romanian Waters”



The National Administration “Romanian Waters” is the Romanian water management body under the direct authority of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The Administration manages 11 river basins, through its units - Water Directorates. Its main tasks are: the water resources management, the integrated water monitoring system, the administration of the hydraulic structures, the water protection against pollution and over use, the flood control management, the coordination of the national investments in the water resources field, the implementation of the EU Directives related to the water, the application of the international and bilateral water conventions.

5.2 Intercommunity Development Association - Water Sewerage in Arad county



The association was set up with the purpose to regulate, organise, finance, manage and monitor the supply water and sewerage services on the competence area of the member administrative territorial units and to develop public investment projects of regional and local interest for setting up, modernisation and / or development of the public utility systems, associated with the water supply and sewerage services.

The associate members include the Arad city and various cities and communes in the Arad county.

6. Examples of companies active in the water and wastewater management

6.1 Fast Eco



The company provides external networks of water supply and sewerage, modular thermal stations, electrical and automation installations, measurement and control systems for cold water, hot water and thermal energy etc.

Some of the company's relevant works in the water field are:

- Execution of internal and external networks of cold water - for Acvatot company in 2007
- Execution of external networks and interior installations for heating and cold water - for Conarg company in 2006
- Execution of pump units - for Wilo Romania company in 2005

Financial data of Fast Eco SRL in 2009:

- Net turnover: 3.6 million EUR
- Net profit: 0.1 million EUR
- Average no of employees: 69

6.2 Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies



Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies Romania (VWST Romania), part of the French Group Veolia Water Solutions and Technologies, is specialised in the applications for municipal water treatment. The activities of the company are according to the quality system SR EN ISO 9001:2001.

The activity of Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies Romania focuses on the design of technological solutions, the construction of the facilities for drinking water or wastewater treatment plants for municipalities, the small sized water treatment plants adapted to the requirements of the rural or small urban areas communities and the commissioning of the projects.

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Financial data of Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies Romania SRL in 2009:

- Net turnover: 1.8 million EUR
- Net profit: -0.9 million EUR
- Average no of employees: 62

6.3 Neyserv International



The company's product range includes: domestic and industrial wastewater treatment stations, drinking water treatment plants, process water treatment plants, grease oil separators, mechanical equipment for water treatment, pumping stations, solid waste treatment stations etc.

The company provides the following services: consultancy, key solutions, project designing and engineering, management, maintenance, assembling and commissioning.

Financial data of Neyserv International SRL in 2009:

- Net turnover: 0.4 million EUR
- Net profit: 0.04 million EUR
- Average no of employees: 1



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