

# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ROMANIA

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The Environment is one of the sectors of great importance at Community level policy which aims at promoting sustainable development and protect the environment for present and future generations. The community environmental acquis comprises over 200 legal acts covering horizontal environmental related legislation. Compliance, application and enforcement of the environmental acquis requires strong and effective administration mechanisms to be developed at national, regional and local level.

Romania aims at improving the life standard of its citizens and has identified the necessity of incorporating environmental protection principles and considerations into all of its development plans. Additionally, the country made commitments in regards to the environment during the accession to the EU negotiation period and now aims at adopting the EU standards and creating an environmentally sound, economically viable and socially feasible - sustainable - pathway of development.

A major problem in Romania is the lack of proper waste management, especially for municipal waste, with most of the municipalities lacking adequate waste disposal facilities. Selective collection of waste streams is only done in certain pilot centers and most of the recyclable materials are lost to landfilling. Moreover the disposal of waste takes place in dumpsites with no protection measures, which pose a severe environmental threat

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the programming phase of Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession (ISPA) / Cohesion Funds (CF) measures in the environment sector. Integrated waste management systems are currently being developed within ISPA. Regarding waste management legislation, almost 95% of the EU legislation has already been incorporated, being in force and awaiting implementation.

Within the framework of ISPA, the joint venture consisting of Kocks Consult GmbH (Germany) – Epem SA (Greece) -Enviroplan SA (Greece) and Romair Consulting SRL (Romania) has been awarded the project "Technical Assistance (TA) for Preparation of 5 sub-projects in the Environment Sector in Romania EUROPEAID/123053/D/SV/RO/P/PA/001-5 for Salaj, Cluj, Caras Severin, Timis and Alba counties".

The overall objective of this TA contract is to support the preparation of a sound project pipeline for the environmental sector as a prerequisite for the absorption of SCF available for the environmental sector in Romania. Romania being a member of the EU needs to improve the environmental infrastructure of the country according to EU standards.

Categories of services to be rendered for each of the 5 sub-projects stemming from the TA project are the following:

- in the pre-feasibility stage – assessment of the current situation and development of Master Plan;
- in the feasibility stage - preparation of studies and elaboration of documents to support the Application for EU co-financing, and;
- in the tendering stage – preparation of tender documents for works and services contracts, which fully meet the Romanian legislation in force and provision of support during tendering and contracting.

The development of the Master Plan for the necessary infrastructure for the integrated solid waste management in 5 counties of Romania, involves the following main objectives:

- to ensure compliance with the national and EU legislation within the transition periods agreed between Romania and EU for environmental sector;
- to ensure an optimal utilisation of EU funds;
- to ensure affordable long term project planning;
- to assist the project promoters in developing local capacity for future project development, and;
- to define a phased long term investment programme.

The various challenges and opportunities that were dealt with during the elaboration of the Master Plan are thoroughly analyzed in the current paper.