

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Case Study from Romanian Communities

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This case study highlights aspects emerging from the everyday reality of rural communities, as described by Romanian rural mayors.

The perception of mayors regarding environmental quality was investigated in the EnvEduOERs project through semi-structured interviews conducted by the project team in 2021.

Below are two excerpts from the interviews, which we invite you to analyse.

Please reflect on the causes of these problems and possible solutions, as well as compare them with situations you know of, specific for the community you are involved in:

1. *"(...) I'm talking about all types of water, rivers, wells, and groundwater tables. It's about the lack of infrastructure in terms of wastewater management. So, there are very few sewage and wastewater treatment facilities and, because of that, the groundwater table is infested from the septic tanks that people have in their households that often do not respect, by their construction, this part of tightness so that there is no leakage from these tanks into the water table"* (Mayor, commune in Brasov county).

2. *"(...) it is a very, very polluted river. I really have had some actions and I still intend to work and find solutions to have a river as unpolluted as possible, but unfortunately we are fighting the windmills here. Considering that the Roma community is also located on the river bank, it is very difficult for us to come up with measures that will really have a positive impact"; "(...) there are layers of plastic bottles, dams where a lot of plastic bottles have accumulated on the river"; "(...) we have noticed that there are several illegal dumps of construction waste (...) and somehow we want to control these illegal waste, illegal dumps of construction materials. Just the other day we had an intervention with the Environmental Guard to stop and sanction the people who are dumping* (Mayor, commune in Brasov county).