

4.3.2 Perspectives on Waste Collection, Treatment and Valorization in Rural Communities

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Slide 1

In the following presentation, we will review the situation of the waste treatment/utilization/disposal infrastructure, we will follow the expected dynamics of these installations by 2025, according to the current Waste Management Plan in Romania, and we will discuss the development possibilities of the waste infrastructure in the rural environment, according to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Slide 2

Taking as reference the situation of 2016, in Romania, the waste management infrastructure includes: 51 transfer stations, 101 sorting stations for mixed municipal solid waste and dry recyclables, 22 composting stations, 4 mechanical biological with biostabilization treatment installations and 36 compliant landfills, in operation.

Slide 3

The waste infrastructure should include, at a minimum, 129 transfer stations, 140 sorting stations for municipal solid waste and dry recyclables, 40 composting stations, 26 stations mechanical-biological treatment with biostabilization, 55 compliant landfills , in operation.

Slide 4

Within the accepted alternative for developing the waste treatment and disposal infrastructure in Romania, additional 17 composting stations, 25 mechanical-biological treatment installations with biodrying, 32 installations of anaerobic digestion and 1 incineration with energy recovery plant for municipal solid waste should be in operation.

Slide 5

With financial support from european projects, almost 1 million individual composting units have been distributed nationwide, equivalent to 30% of the households in rural environment.

Slide 6

With financial support from the World Bank, in the period 2017-2022, 86 rural communities were equipped with composting platforms. Through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, by 2026, Romania aims to have additional 254 communities and small and medium-sized farms equipped with composting platforms.

A complete picture of the waste infrastructure in 2026 includes, in addition to the installations assumed by the National Waste Management Plan, composting platforms for 340 communities and small and medium farms, 565 collection centers in communities with less than 50,000 inhabitants, 5 composting installations and 5 anaerobic digestion installations for large and very large farms.

Slide 8

For the composting platforms dedicated to the communities and small and medium farms, and the higher capacity composting and anaerobic digestion installations for large and very large farms, the total budget allocated by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan is 255 million Euros.

Slide 9

The role of the waste collection centers is to ensure the separate collection of the following waste categories: household items that cannot be collected in a door-to-door system, recyclables and bio-waste that cannot be collected in individual bins, special waste (bulky waste, ewaste, batteries, hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste). The conditions for creating these centers are that they serve communities of up to 50,000 inhabitants and that they have to be located at the border or next to the community. Through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the total allocated budget is 452.2 million euros.

Slide 10

In conclusion, it should be stated that the objectives proposed by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, related to the waste management, have an allocated budget of over one thousand two hundred million Euros. Through the proposed measures, 57% of the total allocated budget goes into improving the waste management situation in rural communities. Thank you for your attention!