

Bathing water results 2010 – Romania

1. Reporting and assessment

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Romania during the 2010 bathing season.

Romania reported eight parameters under the Directive 76/160/EEC (1 Total coliforms, 2 Faecal coliforms, 3 Faecal streptococci, 4 Salmonella, 8 Mineral oils, 9 Surface-active substances reacting with methylene blue, 10 Phenols (phenol indices), 12 Dissolved oxygen).

The parameters to be taken into account for assessment according to the assessment rules of the Directive 76/160/EEC are microbiological (1 Total coliforms, 2 Faecal coliforms) and physico-chemical (8 Mineral oils, 9 Surface-active substances reacting with methylene blue, 10 Phenols (phenol indices)).

The bathing waters are classified in the following categories:

- Compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the five parameters (class CI);
- Compliant with mandatory and more stringent guide values of the Directive for the five parameters (class CG);
- Not compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the five parameters (class NC);
- Banned or closed (temporarily or throughout the season) (class B);
- Insufficiently sampled (class NF);
- Not sampled (class NS).

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

For all bathing waters the bathing season lasted 3.5 months, from 1 June till 15 September 2010.

A total of 49 coastal bathing waters were monitored in Romania during the 2010 bathing season. There are no inland bathing waters monitored.

With 49 bathing waters Romania accounts for about 0.2 % of the reported bathing waters of the European Union.

The evolution of the reported number of bathing waters since monitoring of the water quality began under the Directive 76/160/EEC is presented in Table 1. The number of coastal bathing waters increased since the start of the reporting from 35 in 2007 to 49 in 2008 and remained the same afterwards.

3. Bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Romania for the period 2007-2009 as reported in the past reporting years and for the bathing season of 2010 are presented in Figure 1. The previous reports are available on the European Commission's bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html; Water and Health/Bathing Water/2005-2010 reports) and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>; reports for the 2008 and 2009 bathing seasons).

The graph shows, for coastal bathing waters:

- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the guide values (class CG, blue line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the mandatory values (class CI, green line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that do not comply with the mandatory values (class NC, red line);

- The percentage of bathing waters that are banned or closed (temporarily or throughout the season) (class B, grey line).

Table 1 shows the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages for coastal bathing waters. The numbers and percentages of insufficiently sampled or not sampled bathing waters are also presented.

Map 1 shows the locations of the reported bathing waters in Romania. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the Romanian authorities.

In Romania, 100 % of the coastal bathing waters met the mandatory values in 2010, the same as in the previous year. One bathing water (2 %) met the more stringent guide values compared to four (8.2 %) in 2009. Since 2007, no coastal bathing waters had to be closed during the season.

At the beginning of the reporting in 2007, the compliance rate was low because a large percentage of the bathing waters (51 %) was insufficiently sampled and could not be taken into account in the quality assessment. After this problem was solved since 2008 the compliance with the mandatory values increased significantly (100 % in 2009 and 2010), while the compliance with the guide values remained low.

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Romania from 2007 to 2010

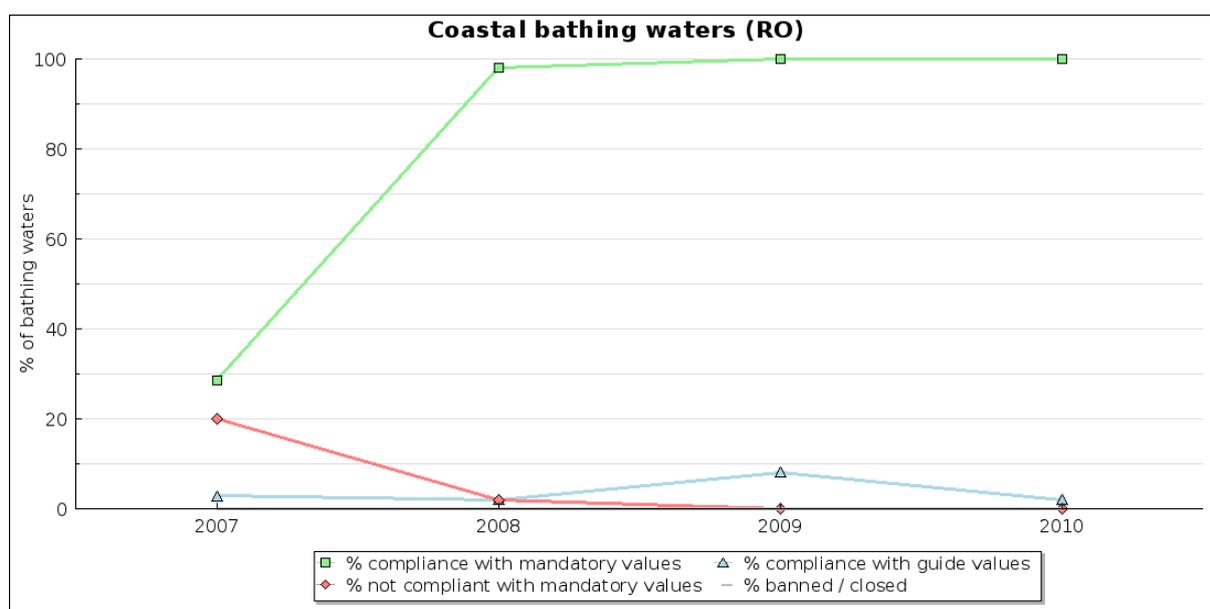
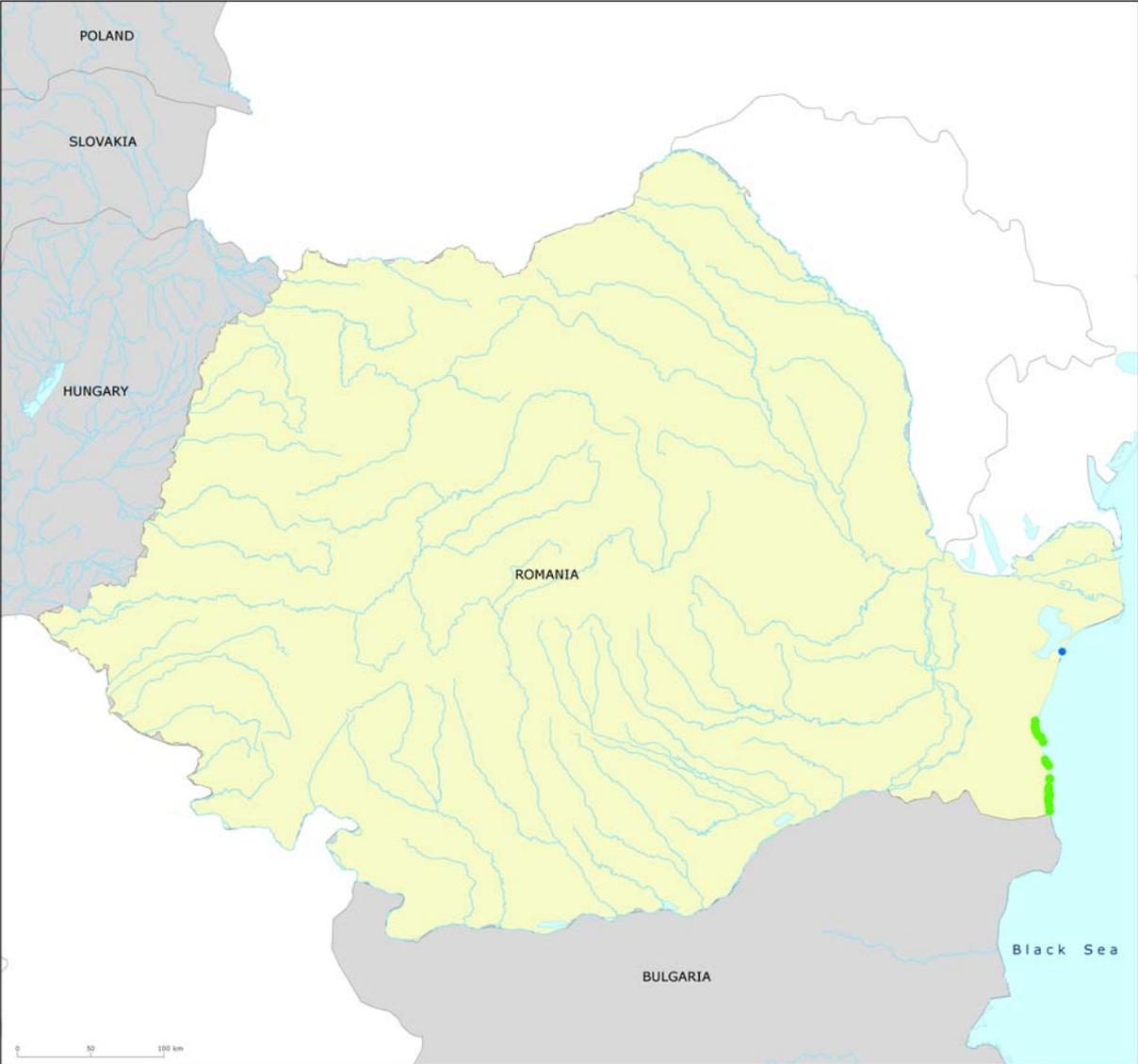


Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Romania from 2007 to 2010

RO												
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide and mandatory values*		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Banned/closed temporarily or throughout the season		Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
			number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Coastal bathing waters	2007	35	1	2.9	10	28.6	7	20.0	0	0.0	18	51.4
	2008	49	1	2.0	48	98.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2009	49	4	8.2	49	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2010	49	1	2.0	49	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

*Bathing waters which were compliant with the guide values were also compliant with the mandatory values.

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2010 bathing season in Romania



Bathing water quality

Coastal/transitional bathing waters	□ No data
● Compliant with guide values	■ Outside data coverage (data available, not presented on the map)
● Compliant with mandatory values	
● Closed*	
● Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
● Not compliant with mandatory values	

Note: * banned or closed (temporarily or throughout the season)
 More data on bathing water quality on: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/mapviewers/bathing>
Source: National boundaries: GISCO; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Romanian authorities

4. Important information as provided by Romanian authorities

Analytical methods

The analytical methods used for the monitoring of bathing waters under the Directive 76/160/EEC are as follows:

- Total coliforms and Faecal coliforms – SR EN ISO 9308 – 1:2004/AC: 2009 ISO 9308 – 1:2004;
- Faecal streptococci – SR EN ISO 7899 – 2:2002;
- Salmonella – SR ISO 6340:2000;
- Mineral oils – SR 7587 – 1996;
- Surface-active substances – SR EN 903 :2003;
- Dissolved oxygen – SR EN 25813:2000.

Information for and participation of the public

Public information in summer season 2010 was done by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment, directly or through their subordinated local units.

Like every year, surveys have been carried out by County Public Health Directorates and Managers of bathing water areas. They identified any causes of pollution and took appropriate measures to reduce possible risk to bather's health. When the source of pollution shall be identified, an action plan will be implemented. Moreover, work to identify and evaluate the causes of pollution that may affect the quality of bathing water has been carried out rigorously in order to prepare the bathing water profiles required for the implementation of Directive 2006/7/EC.

According to the national legislation in force, bathing zones are attributed for exploitation through auction, insuring a transparent public participation according to the Order no. 566 from 15 April 2010 regarding the approval of hiring out Black Sea beaches, public states property, that are in the administration of the National Administration „Romanian Waters”.

There was a public auction in 13 May 2010 organized by the National Administration „Romanian Waters” - Water Directorate Dobrogea Litoral. The auction took place during several days (May and June). The public announcement was made by local papers and posted on www.waterct.ro.

According to Ministry of Environment the bathing waters have been included in the management plans of the Hydro graphic Basins and public participation is developed according to the Water Framework Directive requirements.

The public communication was achieved through direct communication (with informational panels, folders, posters, and activities), communication via media and online communication with web-site and other online tools. Public Health Directorates have informed weekly the public about the quality of bathing water, through the site of Ministry of Health. On the site <http://www.ms.ro/?pag=197> the LITORAL Bulletin was posted during the entire 2010 season. The seaside weekly Bulletin, which is a notification issued by the Public Health Directorate of Constanta, contains data about coastal water and running water quality.

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment is preparing the identification and evaluation of bathing waters for all sites that have been identified under the Directive 2006/7/EC, so that each site will have a profile in 2011.

5. More information on bathing water quality in Europe

Of the more than 21 000 bathing areas monitored throughout the European Union in 2010, two-thirds were in coastal waters and the rest in rivers and lakes. The largest number of coastal bathing waters can be found in Italy, Greece, France, Spain and Denmark, while Germany and France have the highest number of inland bathing waters.

During recent years, including the 2010 bathing season, majority of Member States have adjusted their monitoring programmes to meet the requirements of the new bathing water directive (2006/7/EC).

Luxembourg was the first country to report under this Directive in 2007. Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden started to report under the new directive in 2008. Malta and the Netherlands started to report in 2009, while Austria, Belgium - Walloon Region, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia reported under this Directive for the first time in 2010. Historical data of two microbiological parameters, *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci were sent by Sweden (since 2005), Luxembourg and Malta (since 2006), Belgium - Walloon Region, Greece, Hungary and Portugal (since 2007), and France (since 2009). To conclude, 20 Member States and the Walloon Region of Belgium monitored and reported under the new directive (Directive 2006/7/EC) in 2010.

Assessment of the status of all bathing waters in 2010 under the rules of the new directive (Directive 2006/7/EC) is made for Luxembourg, Malta and Hungary. Assessment of the bathing water quality on a country level for the other countries that reported under the new directive has been done using transition rules. Bathing water quality for individual bathing waters having four year set of data can be seen on the interactive maps and data viewer that are described below.

Three non-EU countries, Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland have reported monitoring results under the new directive. Switzerland sent data on *Escherichia coli* for all bathing waters but only for some data on intestinal enterococci.

Overall in 2010, 92.1 % of Europe's coastal bathing waters and 90.2 % of inland bathing waters met the minimum water quality standards set by the bathing water directives. During recent years there has been deterioration in bathing water quality but still more than nine in ten bathing waters meet the minimum quality standards. The share of non compliant bathing waters was 1.2 % for coastal bathing waters and 2.8 % for inland bathing waters. The decrease reflects in part year to year variation but also indicates that further work is necessary to ensure that the quality of bathing waters is constantly improved and maintained.

More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the EU summary report, the reports for 27 Member States, Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland, can be found on the European Commission's bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html) and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>). The Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IWRS), a partner in the EEA European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC/ICM) has produced the reports for the bathing seasons from the 2008 bathing season on. Countries have collaborated in the assessment of bathing water quality and supplied additional information when needed.

Interactive information on bathing water quality

The bathing water section of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), which is accessible at the EEA bathing water website, allows users to view the quality of the bathing water at more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland bathing sites across Europe. Users can check bathing water quality on an interactive map or can download data for a selected country or region and make comparisons with previous years.

The WISE map viewer (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/interactive//bathing>) is an online map viewer for visualisation of European spatial water data. It includes a lot of interactive layers, allowing water themes to be visualised at different scales. Broad resolutions display the aggregated data by Member State. At finer resolutions the locations of monitoring stations are displayed.

The WISE Bathing Water Quality data viewer (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/bathing-water-data-viewer>) combines text and graphical visualisation, providing a quick check on locations and statistics on the quality of coastal and freshwater bathing waters. It also documents how bathing waters have changed throughout Europe in recent years and provides a full summary of Europe's bathing water quality. Users can search information at three spatial levels - country, region and province - and observe specific bathing water locations on the Google Earth, Google maps or Bing maps.

The Eye On Earth - Water Watch application (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/explore-interactive-maps/eye-on-earth>) allows users to zoom in on a given section of the coast, riverbank or lake, both in street map or, where available, bird's eye viewing formats. A 'traffic-light' indicator (red, amber, green) of bathing water quality, based on the official bathing water data, is put alongside the ratings of people who have visited the bathing site, including any comments users wish to make. For historical data Water Watch uses a simplified index of bathing water quality data. The Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland (one municipality), Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway (one municipality), Slovenia, Slovakia and England and Wales were also sending near real time information on bathing water quality to the Eye On Earth application. The bathing water quality from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Scotland and Northern Ireland was also presented on Eye on Earth Water Watch.

National and local information on bathing water quality

In order to make information to the public more effective, all EU countries have national or local web portals with detailed information for each bathing water. Websites generally include a map search function and public access to the monitoring results both in real time and for previous seasons.

Information on EU bathing water legislation

EU Member States will have to comply with the stricter and more ambitious requirements laid out in Directive 2006/7/EC by 2015 at the latest. The new legislation requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information dissemination. By March 2011 Member States have to have established bathing water profiles. More on the new legislation can be found on the European Commission's websites and on <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>.