

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Romania 

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Waste prevention programme

This **country fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires Member States to have adopted their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention, is considered the most desirable option.

ROMANIA FACT SHEET



Source: Eurostat

Gross domestic product (GDP)

EUR 188 billion (1.2 % of EU-28 total in 2017)

Per person GDP

EUR 18 800 (in purchasing power standard)
(63 % of EU-28 average per person in 2017)

Use of materials

415 million tonnes domestic material consumption (DMC) (6.1 % of EU-28 total in 2017)

21.2 tonnes DMC/person (159 % of EU-28 average per person in 2017)

Resource productivity 0.45 EUR/kg (20 % of EU-28 average in 2017)

Structure of the economy

Agriculture: 4.2 % (2017 est.)

Industry: 33.2 % (2017 est.)

Services: 62.6 % (2017 est.)

Surface area

239 000 square kilometres (5.5 % of EU-28 total)

Population

19.6 million (3.8 % of EU-28 total in 2017)

Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
2.	Type of programme	Part of the national waste management plan The waste prevention section is covered in Chapter V ‘National programme for the prevention of waste generation’ (pp. 301-345).
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Planul Național de Gestionare a Deșeurilor (national waste management plan) http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/planul-national-de-gestionare-a-deșeurilor-pngd/239
4.	Duration of programme	2014-2020
5.	Languages	Romanian
6.	Contact person	Ana-Maria Nistorescu, Waste Department Simona Mihaela Ghita, Waste Department
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	The general aim of the implementation of waste prevention measures is to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with waste generation (p. 302). Moreover, the programme aims at establishing a global vision and strategic direction in developing effective measures on waste prevention (p. 310). Three strategic objectives have been proposed (p. 315): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce household waste per capita by 10 %, in comparison with 2017, by 2025 (i.e. reduce municipal waste from the 228 kg/capita recorded in 2017 to 204 kg/capita in 2025). 2. Decouple the increase in the quantity of packaging waste from economic growth (i.e. the increase in the quantity of packaging waste in 2025, in comparison with 2017, should be at least 10 % lower than the GDP growth during this period). 3. Promote waste prevention in the wood processing, chemical, metallurgical and steel industries.
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	Are there measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme? The Romanian waste management plan includes an evaluation of various waste flows to determine priority waste categories (pp. 310-314). The selection of these categories was performed using the following steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establishing and describing the criteria; 2. scoring waste streams on the basis of previously established criteria; 3. identifying priority sectors. The following waste categories have been selected as priority sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipal waste; • packaging waste; • waste from the manufacturing industry. In the manufacturing industry, four priority sectors have been identified: (1) waste from the wood processing industry, (2) waste from the chemical industry, (3) waste from the metallurgical industry and (4) waste from the steel industry.

9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture; • construction and infrastructure; • manufacturing; • sale, retail, transport; • households; • private service activities, hospitality; • public services.
10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food/organic; • construction and demolition waste; • hazardous waste; • household/municipal waste; • paper/cardboard; • packaging; • waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)/batteries; • manufacturing waste.
11.	Quantitative targets	See Section 7.
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	<p>Measures exist on (p. 304) the following waste categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention of municipal waste generation; • prevention of food waste generation; • prevention of packaging waste generation; • prevention of WEEE generation; • prevention of waste battery and accumulator generation; • green public procurement. <p>Nevertheless, specific measures have been addressed for the three objectives (Section 7). These measures are outlined in Section 14.</p>
13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	<p>No specific measures exist on qualitative prevention.</p> <p>However, the Romanian waste management plan states that waste prevention covers all life cycle phases of the product (raw material extraction, production, processing, distribution, consumption, reuse, etc.). Moreover, waste prevention is important in protecting the environment and reducing pressure on natural resource use (p. 302).</p> <p>The waste prevention programme is part of the circular economy plan, with a focus on transitioning from the current linear economy model to a sustainable model, considering environmental, economic and social aspects (p. 302).</p>

14.	Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1-16)	<p>Table V-4 (pp. 341-345) in the Romanian waste prevention programme is a summary of measures that correspond to specific waste prevention measures in Annex IV of Directive 2008/98.</p> <p>1. To achieve objective 1 (see Section 7), the following measures have been proposed (p. 316):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5. Support individual composting of waste (e.g. create a methodological guide). • 6. Conduct staff training on composting. • 12. Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on composting. • 11. Implement an economic instrument to limit waste generation (e.g. a charge for food that is thrown away). • 15. Control procedures to prevent the generation of food waste; • 12./14. Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on the reduction of food waste. • 15. Prevent the generation of printed paper waste by promoting eco-responsible paper consumption. • 14. Develop a system for refusal of printed advertising materials; • 12. Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on responsible paper consumption. • 12. Implement pre-university education in the field of 'prevention of household waste generation'.
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2. To achieve objective 2 (see Section 7), the following measures on reducing waste, have been proposed:

- 2./4. Optimise packaging design (e.g. use smaller amounts of resources to produce thinner materials, use environmentally friendly materials).
- 4. Optimise packaging (e.g. eliminate unnecessary packaging where possible).
- 16. Reduce the share of secondary and tertiary packaging on the market to a maximum of 15 % in 2020.
- 16. Increase the amount of primary reusable packaging for soft drinks, mineral water and beer by 50 % in 2020 and 100 % in 2025, in comparison with 2017 (e.g. through the creation of a deposit system).
- 12. Conduct information campaigns for consumers.

3. To achieve objective 3 (see Section 7), the following measures on reducing waste have been proposed:

- 9. Establish voluntary agreements among industries.
- 2. Promote research and development to identify new clean technology opportunities.

4. Measures on WEEE prevention:

- 4. Manufacturers who place WEEE products in the market are required to apply ecodesign principles that facilitate reuse and appropriate treatment of WEEE.
- 16. Establish an information platform that contains a list of existing repair centres (including information on the type of WEEE that is accepted).
- 16. Promote cooperation between producers and waste recycling utilities to facilitate reuse, dismantling and recovery of specific materials and components when they become waste (p. 307).

5. Prevention of waste battery and accumulator generation:

- 4. Produce batteries and accumulators that contain fewer polluting substances (especially mercury, cadmium and lead).
- 2. Promote research programmes to replace hazardous materials with materials that have a lower impact on human health and the environment.

6. Prevention of waste from end-of-life vehicles and tyres:

- 4. Limit and reduce the use of hazardous substances in the production of vehicles, starting from the design phase.
- 4. Design and produce new vehicles, taking into account the possibilities of dismantling and reusing their components and materials.
- 5. Use coding for components and materials to facilitate the identification of those materials and components that are suitable for reuse.
- 16. Encourage investment in recycling centres.

7. Measures for the prevention of industrial waste:

- 1. Establish and implement a waste prevention and reduction programme.
- 9. Establish voluntary agreements with industry representatives to raise awareness and encourage waste prevention.

8. Measures for the prevention of medical waste:

- 1. Include measures on medical waste prevention in the national strategy or national waste management plan.
- Reduce the amount of hazardous medical waste generated.

Measures 3, 7 and 10 in Annex IV of Directive 2008/98 have not been addressed in the Romanian waste management plan.

15. Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	<p>Furthermore, the Romanian waste prevention programme includes the following waste prevention measures (not listed in Table V-4) for specific waste categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Municipal waste prevention (p. 304): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 990 500 individual composting units to rural (93 %) and urban (7 %) areas, with the aim of promoting composting and therefore reducing the amount of biodegradable waste to be landfilled. 2. Food waste prevention (p. 305): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste in the agricultural food sector (including production, storage, processing, distribution, consumption, end-of-life phase). • Reduce prices of products that are close to their expiry dates. • Donate excess food. • Handle by-products that are not intended for consumption. 3. Packaging waste prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended producer responsibility has been in place since 2004 (organisational and financial responsibility of producers for the management of specific waste, as well as obligations to achieve recovery targets). • 11. Use an economic tool for waste prevention — packaging tax for plastic shopping bags. 4. WEEE waste prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict the use of certain hazardous substances in the production of electronic and electrical equipment, therefore contributing to the protection of human health and environment. 5. Prevention of waste battery and accumulator generation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11. Use economic tools to promote the usage of batteries and accumulators containing fewer polluting substances. • 4. Prohibit the selling of batteries and accumulators in which mercury and cadmium concentration exceeds a fixed threshold (p. 308). • Establish an extended producer responsibility scheme to stimulate the prevention of generating waste batteries and accumulators. 6. Green public procurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Environment, together with the National Agency for Public Procurement, will draw up a guide that includes the minimum environmental protection criteria for product and service groups, as well as standard specifications (p. 309). <p>15. Introduce a national green public procurement plan that includes criteria for the prevention of food waste (p. 309).</p>
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16. Indicators proposed	<p>Specific indicators on waste prevention have been mentioned in Chapter VI.5 (Table VI-19, pp. 377-379).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The following indicators for objective 1 (see Section 7) have been proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • household and similar waste reduction (in comparison with 2017); • a methodological guide on individual composting at home; • the number of people from local public authorities trained on individual composting; • the share of food waste in the total amount of domestic waste and total weight of food waste; • a study implemented on economic incentives to limit food waste; • an impact study to apply economic incentives to limit food waste; • the number of food waste prevention measures/control in the catering sector; • the number of information and awareness campaigns on food waste; • policy on eco-responsible consumption of office paper in public administration promoted; • policy on the development of a printed advertisement refusal system (STOP PUBLICITATE) promoted; • the number of campaigns to raise awareness of environmentally responsible paper consumption; • inclusion of waste prevention topics in pre-university education. 2. The following indicators for objective 2 (see Section 7) have been suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rate of increase in the amount of packaging waste, in comparison with 2017; • the rate of increase in the amount of primary packaging for soft drinks, mineral water and beer, in comparison with 2017; • the number of information and awareness campaigns for producers and consumers (e.g. encourage the use of reusable packaging and reduce consumption of single-use plastic bags). 3. The following indicators for objective 3 (see Section 7) have been proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of voluntary agreements in the wood, chemical, metallurgical and steel industries; • the number of research studies on the identification of new clean technologies in the wood, chemical, metallurgical and steel industries.
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17. Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p>Is the programme evaluated (mid-term, etc.)?</p> <p>The national waste management programme is the first planning document with regard to waste prevention at the national level. Therefore, there is no set of measures on how to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the results (p. 304). Many measures on waste prevention are recent, so an evaluation does not yet exist (p. 304). For example, regarding the implementation of individual composting units, there is no information on household participation or on the impact of measures on the rate of waste generation (p. 305).</p> <p>However, a set of monitoring measures on waste management exists. For example, a monitoring report for the period 2018-2020 will be established by the Interministerial Commission and will include information on the implementation of priority governance measures for municipal waste management (p. 348).</p>
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18.	Target groups	The waste management plan identifies the involvement of various target groups in the realisation of specific measures. Examples of target groups are as follows: consumers, those working in industry (especially the wood, chemical, metallurgical and steel industries), governmental institutions (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Research and Innovation), those in regional and administrative units, those working in waste management utilities, and educational institutions.
19.	Involvement of stakeholders	<p>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme? Yes, the waste prevention programme describes the involvement of stakeholders in the development of programme.</p> <p>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme? Yes, the waste prevention programme gives information on the stakeholders responsible for the realisation of specific measures.</p>
20.	Other comments	<p>Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme? N/A</p>