



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI



Ministerul Mediului
și Pădurilor

posmediu

2007 - 2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007 - 2013

We invest in the environment. We believe in the future.



We won't wait

till the last minute



Managing Authority for Sectoral Operational Programme Environment

Foreword

Along with Romania's adhesion to the European Union, the absorption of the European funds has become a challenge for both central and regional authorities, but also a responsibility at the regional and county level.

The Sectoral Operational Programme Environment is in fact a green investment. We are speaking of 5,6 billion euros in projects on water, urban heating systems, biodiversity and environment protection.

This is a crucial moment for SOP Environment. All the implicated structures: the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Management Authority, but most of all, the beneficiaries - the local communities, have to behave responsibly in implementing these projects.

In 2010, the European Commission acknowledged the performance of SOP Environment for the value of the contracts signed. We are on the 1st place in Europe regarding waste management contracts, but we must all be aware that the difficult part is only just beginning. Without a proactive attitude from the Intercommunitary Development Associations, without a straightening of their administrative and managerial capacity, because they carry the responsibility for the projects' implementing and development, the absorption of European funds will remain at the level of concept. Romania will lose significant amounts of European money, but finally, the quality of the citizens' daily lives will be the most affected.

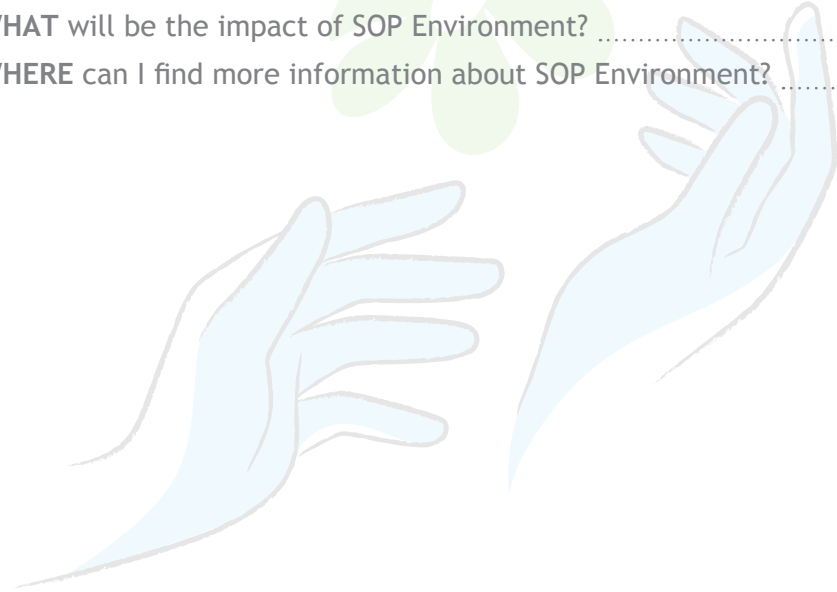
In the XXI century, who wouldn't want to live in a clean environment, have a well-developed infrastructure, a modern waste management and sewage system, according to the European standards? Without any doubt, the answer is: the entire Romanian society.

Responsibility is thus the keyword, making the slogan "We invest in the environment. We believe in the future" more than a message, and we must move together towards a cleaner country.



Table of contents

Abbreviations	4
WHAT is Sectoral Operational Programme Environment?	6
WHY is SOP Environment necessary?	8
WHAT does SOP Environment finance?	10
WHO can apply for funding?	22
HOW is this programme implemented?	24
WHAT will be the impact of SOP Environment?	26
WHERE can I find more information about SOP Environment?	28



Abbreviations



Abbreviations

IDA	Intercommunity Development Association
MASOP Environment	Management Authority for Sectoral Operational Programme Environment
ANAR	National Administration “Romanian Water”
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
REPA	Regional Environmental Protection Agency
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
CF	Cohesion Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
MEF	Ministry of the Environment and Forests
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SOP Environment	Sectoral Operational Programme Environment
NDP	National Development Plan
UE	Uniunea Europeană



WHAT is the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment?

SOP

Why?

What?

Who?

How?

What?

Where?



WHAT is the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment?

The Sectoral Operational Programme Environment (SOP Environment) is one of the 7 operational programmes approved for Romania, funded by the European Union during 2007-2013, within the Convergence objective. The SOP Environment from European Union, and 1,1 billion euro is the contribution of Romania. The funding from the European Union comes from two funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF).

SOP Environment is the most important financial assistance programme in the field of environmental protection. The programme finances projects that have in view water supply systems, sewage systems, water treatment plants, wastes management, rehabilitation of historically polluted lands, rehabilitation of old district heating systems (which significantly contribute to air pollution), preservation of nature, protection from floods and coast erosion. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has elaborated the programme as Management Authority for SOP Environment (MA SOP Environment), in a vast partnership, with the involvement of all stakeholders in environmental protection field (central and local public authorities, NGOs, employers' professional associations, national agencies, research institutes, European Commission, etc.). The management of the is the responsibility of the Management Authority for SOP Environment and of the 8 Intermediary Bodies founded at the level of each Development Region of Romania.

The allotted budget is 5,6 billion euro of which 4,5 billion euro represents non-refundable funding



WHY is SOP Environment necessary?

Why?

What?

Who?

How?

What?

Where?



WHY is SOP Environment necessary?

The environment in Romania suffers a continuous degradation. At the same time, Romania is dealing with a series of issues that influence the quality of life of the population. Thus, only 52% of the population had in 2007, access to drinking water and sewage systems; in most towns, the waste continues to be improperly collected and stored, affecting the health of the citizens; the old urban heating systems pollute the air considerably; a lot of species of plants and animals are endangered species, and the natural resources are excessively used; the constructions in the river beds and the inadequate dams led to the increase in the incidence of floods and the erosion of the Black Sea coast.

SOP Environment aims to contribute significantly to the remedy of these issues, considering the local needs regarding the environment.

The period of implementation of the programme is 2007-2013, but its objectives focus on Romania's development needs after 2013 as well, by the realization of investments laying the bases of sustainable development in environmental infrastructure.



WHAT does SOP Environment finance?

What?

Who?

How?

What?

Where?



WHAT does SOP Environment finance?

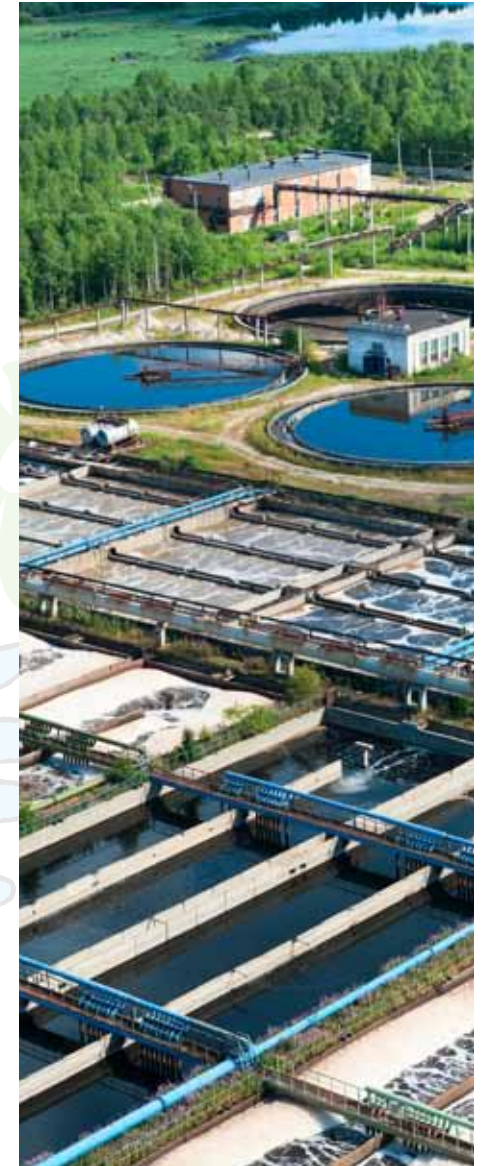
SOP Environment includes five Priority Axes corresponding to each environmental sector financed by this programme and a Priority Axis of Technical Assistance designed for supporting the Management Authority and the Intermediary Bodies for SOP Environment, structures responsible for the management of the programme. Specifically, the Priority Axes SOP Environment targets the following sectors:

- **1. Water/waste water** - extension and modernization of water and sewage networks, construction and modernization of waste water treatment plants and water treatment plants.
- **2. Waste and historically polluted sites** - construction of ecological landfills, sorting plants, composting plants, transfer plants, mechanical biological treatment installations, closing of non-conforming municipal landfills, acquisition of containers for selective collection, means of transport of wastes and wastes sorting and recycling equipment.
- **3. Urban heating** - modernization of heating systems in cities and towns: renovation of boilers, turbines and heating agent distribution networks,



improvement of metering systems, etc.

- **4. Nature protection** - administration and preservation of protected natural areas (for instance, reservations, natural parks, etc), elaboration of scientific studies, management plans and measures of conservation of natural areas, realization of maps of protected areas and species of plants and animals living in those areas, activities of public information and awareness regarding the importance of protection of nature and preservation of biodiversity.
- **5. Floods and coast area** - construction of dams and other types of infrastructure for the prevention of floods or reduction of their effects, elaboration of maps identifying the areas with risk of flooding, extension of the beach area in the Black Sea area and stopping coast erosion.
- **6. Technical Assistance** - consolidation of the system of management, monitoring, control and evaluation of implementation of SOP Environment and assurance of visibility of the European financial assistance given through SOP Environment.





In the establishment of the fields of intervention specific to **Priority Axis 1 “Extension and modernization of water and waste water systems”** we considered the following problems that Romania was facing at the moment of accession: the low access of population to water and waste water infrastructure, the improper quality of drinking water and the lack of sewage and waste water treatment facilities in certain areas, the large number of small operators that also carried out other activities than the management of water and sewage networks.

The regional projects financed through the Priority Axis 1 of SOP Environment are an adequate solution for the remedy of these issues. The investments eligible for this Axis must target the extension/modernization of water and sewage networks, the construction/modernization of water treatment plants, the increase in the quality of public water and sewage services, in the conditions of acceptable fees for

the beneficiary population.

The development of this type of projects requires the cooperation between the local authorities involved in the project, in view of establishing the strategy of development of the county/ regional infrastructure. They must create an Intercommunity Development Association and a Regional Operator (Regional Water Company), responsible for the realization of investments and the management of water/waste water services.

Given the reduced experience of the beneficiaries in this field, and the need for engaging and



absorbing the European funds on time, MA SOP Environment initiated a series of technical assistance projects since the pre-accession period. They had the purpose of supporting the potential beneficiaries in the preparation of applications for funding, which comprise complex documents such as Master Plans, Feasibility Studies, Cost-Benefit Analyses, etc. Thus, for this sector, there is a portfolio of projects, which targets all the counties of the country. The projects are evaluated and selected by MA and Intermediary Body of SOP Environment, starting from the list of projects proposed for this sector, which is enclosed to SOP Environment (annex 2), as

the applications for funding reach a sufficient degree of maturity (the related documents are completed, the institutional framework is created and functional, etc).

For the major projects, respectively those projects whose value exceeds the amount of 50 million, MA SOP Environment sends all the applications for funding to the European Commission for approval.





Priority Axis 2:

“Development of integrated wastes management systems and rehabilitation of historically contaminated sites”

In Romania, in most towns, the waste is collected and stored in places that do not observe the European environmental law.

SOP Environment proposes to remedy of this situation by investments in the construction of ecological landfills, sorting plants, composting plants, transfer plants, mechanical biological treatment installations, closing of non-conforming municipal landfills, acquisition of containers for selective collection, means of transport of wastes and sorting and recycling equipment. Similarly to the water sector, in this sector as well a regional approach is required, and the collaboration between the local public authorities is necessary. The applications for funding were elaborated with the support of technical assistances mostly funded by MEF and comprise county Master Plans, Feasibility Studies, Cost-Benefit Analyses, etc. representing a portfolio of projects that targets 30 counties.



In this priority axis we also have in view the rehabilitation of contaminated sites following the economic activities carried out in the past, when the environmental protection issues were not taken into consideration.

Following the elaboration of the national strategy for the management of historically polluted sites and taking into account the inventory that exists at the level of the National Environmental Protection Agency, 5 sites were selected, for which were prepared pilot projects of rehabilitation of historically contaminated sites, with significant environmental impact.

Their selection was made depending on the following criteria: the sites must be nonoperational, must be the public property of the local authorities and must not be under dispute regarding the ownership right over the contaminated land, must be polluted following the carrying out of the activities related to the extractive and processing industry, the chemical industry or

must be polluted with persistent organic products. We also took into account that the selected sites did not benefit from funding from other funds, for avoiding the double funding.



Thus, the selected sites are in Crângurile, Câmpina, Turda and Târgu Mureș.



Priority Axis 3: “Reduction of pollution from the urban heating systems in the most affected towns”

The old urban heating municipal systems significantly contribute to air pollution, affecting the quality of the environment and the health of the population. For the reduction of this phenomenon important investments are necessary. These investments will be made by projects that have in view the rehabilitation and modernization of urban heating plants and distribution networks.

Just as in the case of the previous Priority Axes, MA SOP Environment initiated the preparation of projects for this sector; the selection of the municipalities that would benefit from technical assistance in the preparation of applications for funding was made depending on certain strict criteria. For instance, an obligatory condition for their approval was that the district heating systems for the production and distribution of thermal energy

to the population should be the property of the local authority, which will prove the existence of a long/medium term local heating strategy that guarantees the viability of the heating system on the medium and long term.

As a preliminary condition, the investments envisaged had to target the urban heating plants that obtained periods of transition for the compliance with the European standards.

Thus, 7 municipalities were selected for which requests for funding were prepared: Timișoara, Iași, Bacău, Focșani, Oradea, Botoșani, Râmnicu - Vâlcea.



Priority Axis 4: “Implementation of Adequate Management Systems for the Protection of Nature”

In the last decades, the excessive exploitation of natural resources and the fragmentation of habitats had a negative impact on the natural patrimony of Romania. Thus, although Romania is gifted with a rich biological diversity, many species of plants and animals are endangered.

Under the circumstances, Romania has to implement measures of preservation in the designated protected areas.

In this priority axis, the investments target the assurance of a proper management of the protected areas, the maintenance and improvement of the condition of favourable preservation of habitats and species, the stopping of degradation of biodiversity and natural resources and the awareness of the relevant factors.

The Intermediary Bodies of SOP





Environment from each region are responsible for the evaluation of projects, while MA SOP Environment is responsible for their final selection.



Priority Axis 5: “Implementation of adequate infrastructure of natural risk prevention in most vulnerable areas”

The weather changes, the massive deforestations, the occupation of river beds with unauthorized constructions, the dams made without having studied their effects on the aquatic environment had as consequence a higher frequency of floods, on one hand, and the progressive erosion of the Black Sea coast, on the other hand. Considering the losses of human lives in the last years, the significant material damages caused by floods, whose value is estimated to approximately 3 billion Euro, and the disappearance of wide beach areas, Romania must take measures for the prevention and protection from hydrologic disasters and the reduction of the phenomenon of coast erosion.

MA SOP Environment makes the evaluation and selection of projects, and 11 projects were approved so far.

The projects within this priority axis will have as purpose the realization of the infrastructure for the prevention of floods and





Priority Axis 6: “Technical Assistance”

The aim of this priority axis is to assure an affective implementation of SOP Environment, by strengthening the institutional capacity of Management Authority and of the Intermediary Bodies, the funding of the activities regarding the planning, monitoring, evaluation and control of the projects, but also advertising and information actions for SOP Environment.

By the training activities the transfer of knowledge and experiences is assured, while the support given for the publicity and information actions of the programme contributes to the promotion of the operations. The information both for the general public, the main relevant factors and for the potential beneficiaries regarding the interventions financed through SOP Environment, as well as the advertising of the Programme, have the purpose of emphasizing

the role of community funding, of the impact of investments made with European funds allotted through the Programme, as well as the assurance of the visibility of the opportunities of funding from Structural and Cohesion Funds in the field of environment.



WHO can apply for funding?

Who?

How?

What?

Where?



WHO can apply for funding?

The projects funded by SOP Environment influence large communities, imply involvement and attraction of important financial resources and the knowing of needs at local level. Therefore, the beneficiaries can be the following types of institutions and bodies:

- **Axis 1:** regional water operators;
- **Axis 2:** county councils;
- **Axis 3:** local authorities and county councils;
- **Axis 4:** administrators and conservators of protected areas, regional and local environmental protection agencies, institutions and public authorities, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, universities, museums;
- **Axis 5:** National Administration Romanian Water;
- **Axis 6:** Management Authority and Intermediary Bodies of SOP Environment.



HOW is this programme implemented?

How?

What?

Where?



HOW is this programme implemented?

This programme is implemented in partnership, by the involvement of all the key factors (regional water operators, county councils, local administrations, administrators and conservators of protected areas, regional and local environmental protection agencies, institutions and public authorities, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, universities, museums, National Administration Romanian Waters). The elaboration of SOP Environment was done with their consultation, and the implementation of the programme and of the projects selected for funding implies the continuation of this cooperation.

In order for the implemented projects to have long-term effects, a correlation between them is required at county level, within a local strategy. For instance, the construction of a water treatment plant must be accompanied by the assurance of facilities of environmental storage of use of the sludge resulted from treatment; the water supply must be accompanied by sewage, etc.



WHAT will be the impact of SOP Environment?

What?

Where?



WHAT will be the impact of SOP Environment?

The funded projects will have a visible impact on the citizens who live in the targeted communities. Thus:

- 70% of Romania's population will be connected to the water and sewage systems at regional level;
- The selective collection of recyclable wastes will apply on a wide scale and there will be environmental landfills in 30 counties. For 7 other counties, there are environmental landfills already in place, and investments were made in the other components of an integrated wastes management system;
- The pollution caused by the centralized urban heating systems will be significantly reduced;
- 240 protected natural areas will have management plans and 60% of the surface of protected natural areas will benefit from preservation measures;
- The risk of floods for 1,5 million persons from the towns exposed to floods will be eliminated.



WHERE can I find more information about SOP Environment?



WHERE can I find more information about SOP Environment?

On the website dedicated to this programme,
www.posmediu.ro

Contact data:

Management Authority SOP Environment

Mălina FRĂTEANU, Communication Officer
 Victor IONESCU, Communication Officer
 30-32 Șerban Vodă Street, district 4, Bucharest
 phone: 021-300 62 50
 fax: 021-316 07 78
 e-mail: malina.frateanu@posmediu.ro
 victor.ionescu@posmediu.ro

Intermediary Body Bacău - 1st Region Northeast

Miruna POȘTARU, Communication Officer
 78 Ionita Sandu Sturza Blvd
 phone/fax: 021-300 63 82/ 0234-515 501
 e-mail: miruna.postaru@posmediu.ro

Intermediary Body Galați -2nd Region Southeast:

Nicoleta Doina RADU, Communication Officer
 23 Portului Street
 phone: 021-300 63 92
 fax: 0236-325 515
 e-mail: nicoleta.radu@posmediu.ro





Intermediary Body Pitești - 3rd Region South Muntenia

Bogdan BADEA, Communication Officer
32 Craiovei Street
phone/fax: 021-300 63 32/ 0248-211 433
e-mail: bogdan.badea@posmediu.ro

Intermediary Body Craiova - 4th Region Southwest

Dan MITREA, Communication Officer
93-95 Amaradia Street
phone/fax: 021-300 63 42/ 0351-442 284
e-mail: dan.mitrea@posmediu.ro

Intermediary Body Timișoara - 5th Region West

Anca COLCERIU, Communication Officer
18-18A Liviu Rebreanu Blvd
phone: 021-300 63 52
fax: 0256-226 675
e-mail: anca.colceriu@posmediu.ro

Intermediary Body Cluj-Napoca - 6th Region North West

Nicu ROZENBERG, Communication Officer
47 Minerilor Street
phone: 021-300 63 62
fax: 0364-101 875
e-mail: nicu.rozenberg@posmediu.ro

Intermediary Body Sibiu - 7th Region Center

Valerica PETRUȚA, Communication Officer
21 Cristian Street
phone: 021-300 63 72
fax: 0269-211 512
e-mail: valerica.petruta@posmediu.ro





Intermediary Body Bucharest - 8th Region - Bucharest - Ilfov

Mariana IONESCU, Communication Officer
30-32 Șerban Vodă Street, district 4, Bucharest
phone: 021-300 63 22
fax: 021-316 07 78
e-mail: mariana.ionescu@posmediu.ro



Sectoral Operational Programme "Environment"

Publisher: Managing Authority for Sectoral Operational Programme "Environment"

Date of publishing: September 2011

"Production of this material was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund"

The paper used for printing this brochure is recycled