European Water Regulators

2nd Workshop on the Economic Regulation of Municipal Waste

"Costs and Tariffs of Municipal Waste Services"

11th December 2024 – 14:15-16:45

ROMANIA – GENERAL INFORMATION

It has an area of 238,397 km2 and a population of around 19 million.

Administrative structure

3181
Municipalities with local authorities and 41 counties

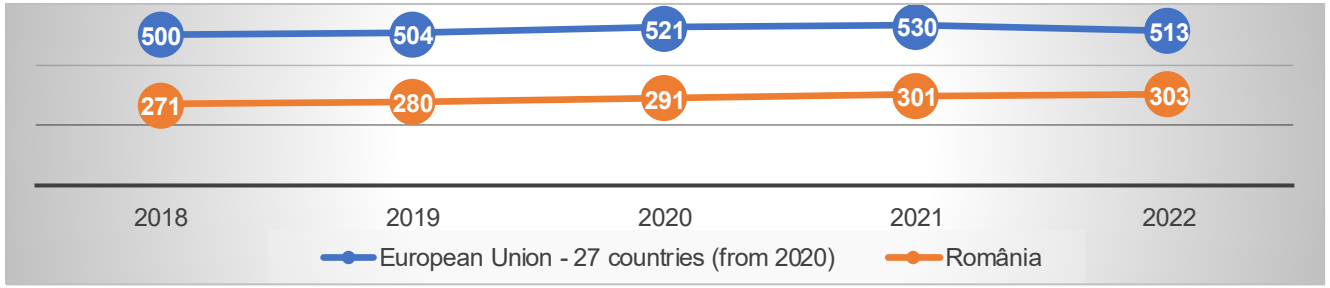
103 big municipalities, 216 cities and 2862 communes

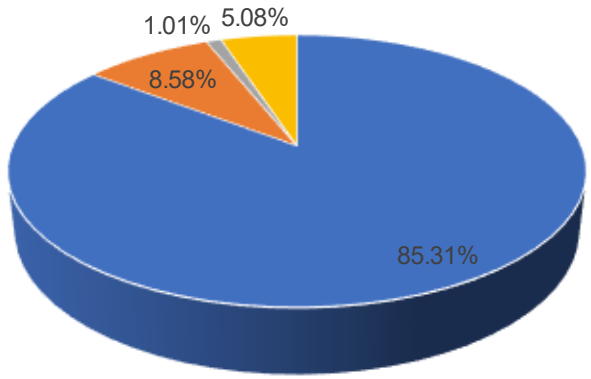
Local authorities are empowered by the legal framework to asure the organization and operation of activities on the flow of municipal solid waste (collecting, sorting, treatment, landfill, incineration).

Share of the Main Categories of Municipal Waste Generated

Indicator name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Amount of municipal waste generated (mil. tons)	5.30	5.43	5.62	5.78	5.77
Din care:					
- Household waste collected from the population and assimilated from economic operators (mil. tons)	4.25	4.63	4.76	4.95	4.92
- Waste from municipal services (mil. tons)	0.430	0.419	0.499	0.438	0.495
- Waste generated and not collected (mil. tons)	0.314	0.178	0.147	0.110	0.058
- Recyclable waste from the population, collected through authorized economic operators, other than sanitation operators (mil. tons)	0.302	0.200	0.208	0.283	0.293
- Municipal waste generation indicator (Kg/capita/year)	271	280	291	301	303

Evolution of the municipal waste generation indicator 2018-2022, kg/capita/year





- Household waste collected from the population and assimilated from economic operators (mil. tons)
- Waste from municipal services (mil. tons)
- Waste generated and not collected (mil. tons)
- Recyclable waste from the population, collected through authorized economic operators, other than sanitation operators (mil. tons)

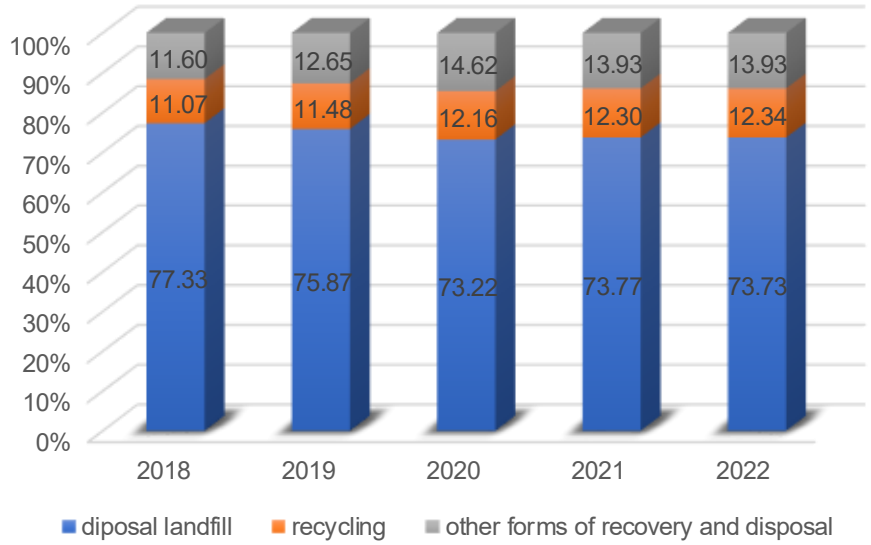
Source: National Agency for Environmental Protection Reports

Amount of the Main Municipal Solid Waste Management Activities

Indicator name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Amount of municipal waste collected separately (ths. tons)	634.54	576.82	716.42	890.71	872.87
Amount of municipal waste recycled (ths. tons)	586.41	623.21	683.18	710.39	711.66
Recycling rate achieved for municipal waste (%)	11.07	11.48	12.16	12.3	12.34
Amount of municipal waste recovered for energy (ths. tons)	241.45	251.28	298.42	317.7	388.71
Amount of municipal waste incinerated (ths. tons)	0	0	0	33.58	40.16
Amount of biodegradable waste from municipal waste landfilled (ths. tons)	2068.29	2120.02	2077.09	2038.91	1891.09
Number of compliant municipal landfills in operation	43	44	46	48	47
Number of transfer facilities in operation	53	84	95	98	85
Number of sorting facilities in operation	105	103	107	111	112
Number of mechanical-biological treatment plants in operation	0	6	10	14	14

Population connected

Indicator name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Degree of connection to sanitation service (%)	88.09	93.07	94.08	95.24	97.04



Share of the main municipal waste management activities, compared to the amount of waste generated (%)

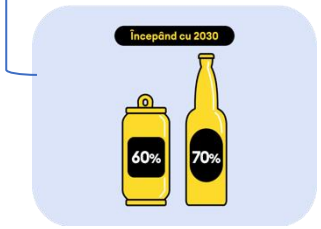
Source: National Agency for Environmental Protection Reports

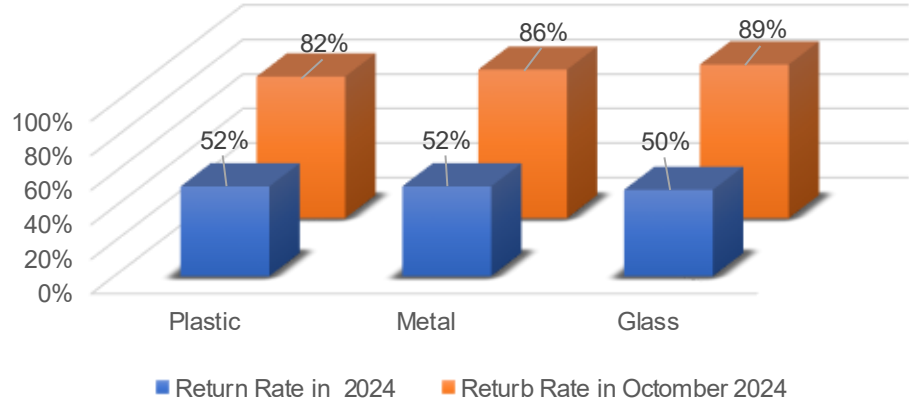
Guarantee-Return System

RetuRO is the company established by a consortium consisting of three private shareholders and one public shareholder and designated by law as the administrator of the Guarantee-Return System.

- Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
- Association of Romanian Breweries for the Environment
- Association of Soft Drink Manufacturers for Sustainability
- Association of Retailers for the Environment

0,10 EUR per package





Indicator name	Plastic	Metal	Glass
Quantity of SGR packaging placed on the market in 2024 until 01.11.2024	2,888,622,740	1,299,048,298	1,035,039,534
Quantity of SGR packaging returned in 2024 until 01.11.2024	1,514,487,149	672,325,437	522,528,495
Packaging return rate in 2024	52%	52%	50%
Packaging return rate in october 2024	82%	86%	89%

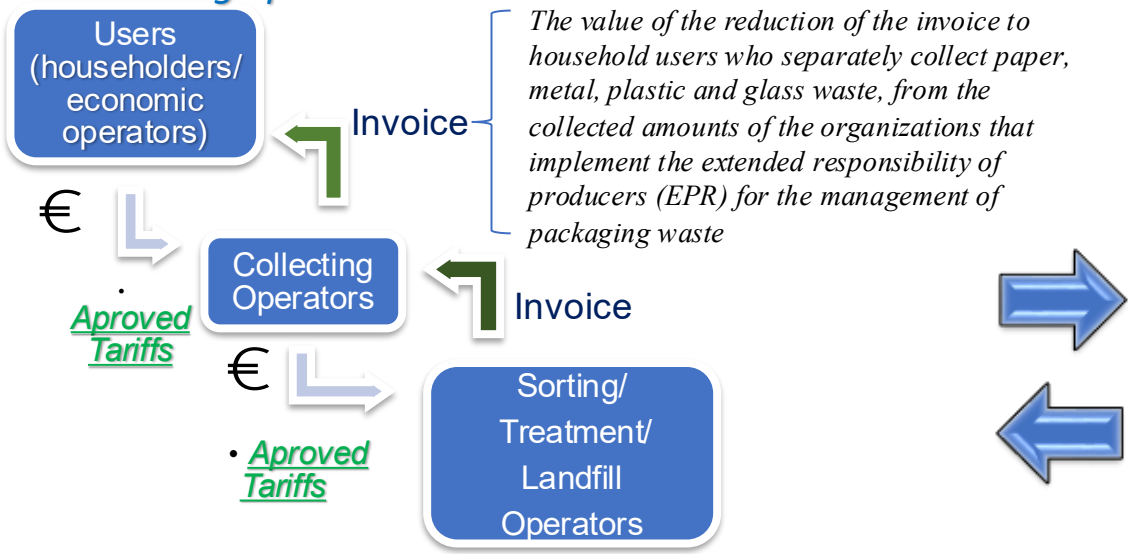
Source: Returo SGR Reports

The Financial Flow Within the Sanitation Service & Municipal Waste Management

The Tariff Payment

- *The users have signed contracts with the collectors and pay the entire value of the municipal solid waste flow services to the collecting operators*

2 different methods

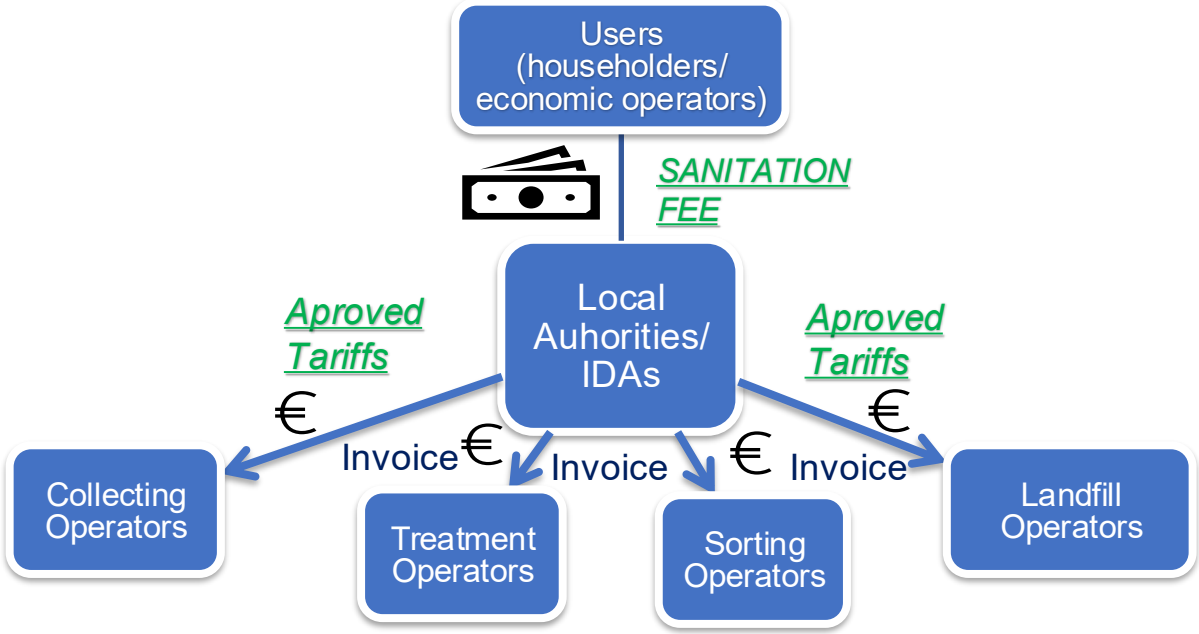


In the tariff payment method, the contractual relations between the operators who provide sanitation activities on the municipal waste flow are established on the basis of commercial contracts, concluded at the tariffs approved by the local authorities / by the intercommunity development association.

The Fee Payment

- *The users don't have contracts with the collectors and pay taxes to the local authorities – the entire value of the municipal solid waste management services*

! *The local authorities calculate the sanitation fee based on all operators tariffs & landfill fee on the municipal solid waste flow*

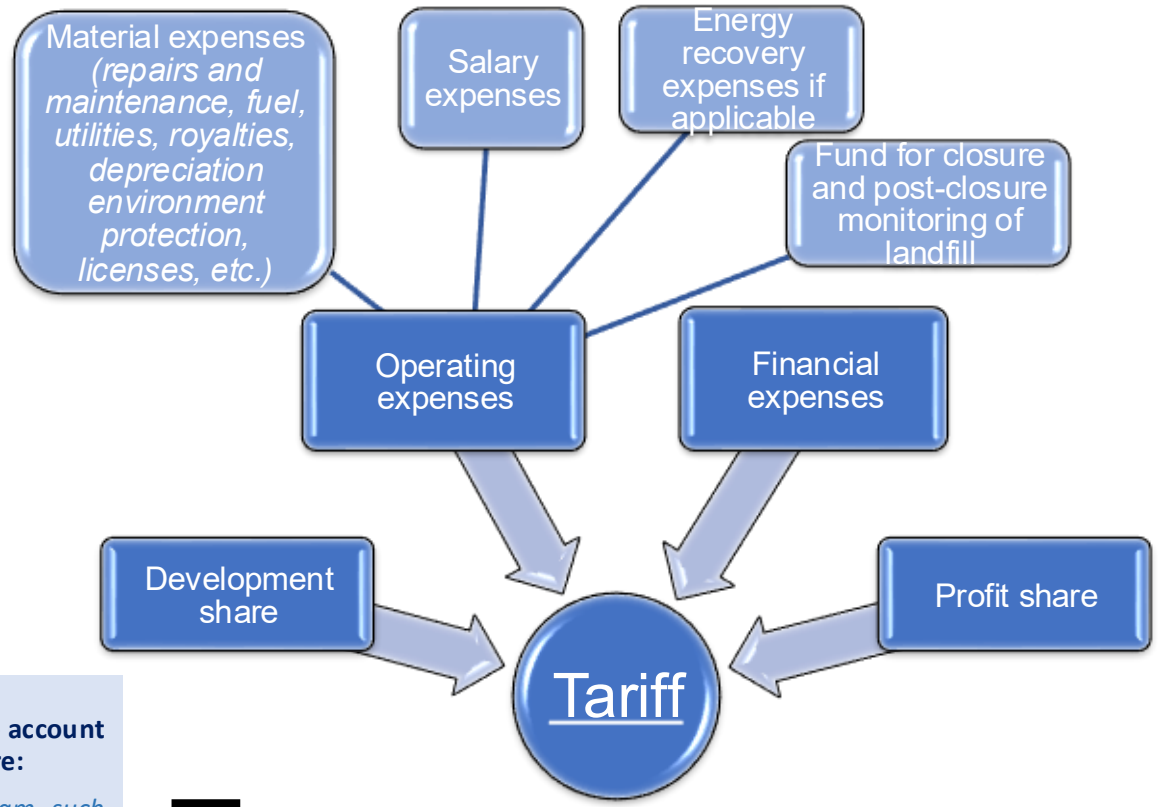


Costs Included in the Sanitation Service Tariffs & Municipal Solid Waste Flow

General aspects

- *A.N.R.S.C. - the national regulatory authority – is empowered to establish the methodological norms to set, modify and adjust the applied tariffs for the activities on municipal waste flow.*
- *Local authorities / intercommunity development association have exclusive competences to analyze and to approve all the tariffs/ sanitation fees.*
- *A.N.R.S.C. is empowered to approve tariffs only if the local authorities do not analyze the operators' requests within the legal term.*
- *The tariff are allowed to be adjusted with the evolution of the total consumption price index for the economy communicated by the National Institute of Statistic.*
- *The tariffs are allowed to be modified in situations where there are changes in the cost structure and/or changes in the level of expenditure elements, caused by legislative changes, changes in programmed quantities or increases in expenditure items above the level of adjustment.*

Cost elements



The tariffs for the activities provided on the municipal solid waste flow are calculated by taking into account only the operating expenses related to the respective activity without including in the tariff structure:

- *expenses related to other sanitation activities carried out by operators on the municipal waste stream, such as landfill expenses, sorting, other waste treatment activities;*
- *expenses with the contribution for the circular economy (landfill tax);*
- *estimated/ obtained revenues from the sale/ recovery of recyclable waste and/or from the amounts collected from organizations that implement extended producer responsibility (EPR)*

In case of tariff adjustement or modification, only a part of this elements are allowed to be recalculated.

The Tariffs Charged on the Municipal Solid Waste Flow

Consideration:

- **Over 600 operators in sanitation service**
- **34 Integrated Waste Management Systems at County level divided into services areas . These IWMS were initially established in 2007-2013 EU financing program (before the EU circular economy directives) and were finished in the next financing program (almost off them)**

Infrastructures:

- **47 solid waste landfills (2023)**
- **112 sorting facilities (2023)**
- **14 mechanical-biological treatment plants (2023)**

The lack of a proper treatment infrastructure has a influence in tariff level.
In Romania, there are 3181 municipalities and many of them have difficulties to asure the entire flow on municipal solid waste due to the poor existent treatment infrastructure.

Tariffs on the municipal waste flow – Fluctuation range:

Year	Tariffs for collecting of residual municipal waste (EUR/to)		Tariffs for collecting of recyclable municipal waste (EUR/to)		Tariffs for collecting of biodegradable municipal waste (EUR/to)		Tariffs for sorting (EUR/to)		Tariffs for mechano-biological treatment (EUR/to)		Tariffs for lanfill (EUR/to)		In addition to the tariff - Disposal fee for each ton - named contribution to the circular economy (EUR/to)
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	
2020	15,8	94,0	37,2	368,2	49,6	368,0	8	90	4,1	28,4	8,80	41,6	6
2021	11,9	120,7	7,0	398,2	24,2	368,0	8	90	4,1	38,8	11,80	41,6	16
2022	4,4	186,0	20,0	396,6	27,5	396,6	11	217,6	5,3	54,3	11,90	49,6	16
2023	26,0	187,4	32,2	335,6	27,5	100,9	13	466,2	5,3	66,4	11,90	49,6	16
2024	28,3	207,4	22,4	300,0	27,5	350,0	14	466,2	8	93,2	14,90	49,6	32

** According to the methodology, all the tariffs must be calculated in tons and then converted into cubic meters and an amount/person/month and each household pays according to the number of persons*

WAREG

European Water Regulators