

# Financial Sustainability of Wastewater Management

Session 2: Towards achieving sustainable wastewater management at policy level

## *UWWTD implementation challenges and the way forward in Romania*

Ivaylo Kolev, Senior WSS Specialist, the World Bank



# The WB is providing TA to the MEWF

- The WB is providing TA to the MEWF and NARW to address the UWWTD implementation challenges since January 2019;
- This is a result of the analytical work the WB did in 2017-2018 to develop a comprehensive Water Sector Diagnostic and experience of delivering similar assignments in Bulgaria.



# Main challenges

- Very low starting point: at the end of 2003, only 11.5 million inhabitants out of the total population of 21.7 million in Romania had access to WW collection and treatment services. Only 644 localities (265 urban and 379 rural) out of around 3,000 localities had public collecting systems (21.5%) and only 77% of their total discharged WW was treated; at the same time in 47 urban localities, with more than 150,000 inhabitants, the WW was discharged without any treatment.
- Significant commitments: targeting WW collection and treatment in agglomerations representing a percentage of the load generated at the end of 2010 (61% collection, including all agglomerations of more than 10 000 p.e.; 51% treatment) and 2013 (69% collection, 61% treatment), concerning all agglomerations above 10,000 people equivalent (p.e.) at the end of 2015, and at the end of 2018 for all agglomerations between 2,000 and 10,000 p.e.

# Situation at the beginning of the TA

- From 2004 till 2019 Romania managed to invest approximately EUR 6.6 billion (i.e. nearly 70% of the initially estimated investments) and significantly improved the WSS services.
- The compliance situation in Romania was quite unsettling with one third of the wastewater load still to be collected; half of the collected wastewater load requiring secondary treatment in line with the requirements of the UWWTD; and two thirds of the collected wastewater load from agglomerations generating >10,000 p.e. needing more stringent treatment.

# What we did in Romania

- We've developed a new national approach and helped MEWF prepare a new UWWTD Implementation Acceleration Plan focused on:
  - 1) Optimization of compliance investments;
  - 2) Prioritization of investments;
  - 3) Establishment of a financing plan and sustaining WSS investments;
  - 4) Implementation of other sector measures to accelerate investments and improve sector performance; and
  - 5) Monitoring, evaluation and adjustment of the plan.

# Expected results

- 46% decrease in number of agglomerations and 29% of their pollution load as a result of developed new methodology for delineation of agg. boundaries based on established national criteria “sufficiently concentrated” areas, negative population growth and slowdown of economic activities.
- As a result, the investment needs assessment demonstrated a requirement for €6.2 billion, of which 25 percent are for UWWTD driven water investments and 75 percent for the extension or new collection systems and new WWTPs.
- Most optimal scenario: following the proposed 5 steps plus legislative changes to use IAS in agglomerations between 2,000 and 5,000 p.e., where no collecting systems and WWTP exist by reducing the total remaining compliance costs to €3.4 billion and allowing Romania to achieve UWWTD compliance in 2035.

# Reform and improvement efforts continue

- Presentations and discussions with the EC on the new methodology and IAP;
- Addressing the “enabling conditions” for the new programming period (financing strategy);
- NRRP commitments;
- Legislative changes in December 2021 implementing some of the long due sector recommendations by the WB TA team.

# Thank You



[www.worldbank.org/water](http://www.worldbank.org/water) | [www.blogs.worldbank.org/water](http://www.blogs.worldbank.org/water) |  [@WorldBankWater](https://twitter.com/WorldBankWater)