

Eco-innovation in Romania

EIO Country Profile

2013



Eco-Innovation Observatory

The Eco-Innovation Observatory functions as a platform for the structured collection and analysis of an extensive range of eco-innovation information, gathered from across the European Union and key economic regions around the globe, providing a much-needed integrated information source on eco-innovation for companies and innovation service providers, as well as providing a solid decision-making basis for policy development.

The Observatory approaches eco-innovation as a pervasive phenomenon present in all economic sectors and therefore relevant for all types of innovation, defining eco-innovation as:

“Eco-innovation is any innovation that reduces the use of natural resources and decreases the release of harmful substances across the whole life-cycle”.

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Eco-Innovation Observatory

Country Profile 2013: Romania

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A note to Readers

Any views or opinions expressed in this report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the European Union. A number of companies are presented as illustrative examples of eco-innovation in this report. The EIO does not endorse these companies and is not an exhaustive source of information on innovation at the company level.

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Summary

The landscape of eco-innovation initiatives has been evolving in Romania over the past years. Although rather driven by EU-level regulation, the country has been steadily adopting policies to further sustainable development solutions. Nevertheless, Romania's policy orientation is still not taking a strategic long-term view and an integrated approach is needed across the board for mainstreaming sustainable development thinking and eco-innovation across the government's policies.

As highlighted by the UNECE 2013 Environmental Performance Review on Romania, challenges such as waste and water management need to receive more attention; concrete actions are expected from national and local level authorities to make more effort to tap into the available EU funds and invest in sustainable solutions in these sectors.

The fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy have seen the highest boost in fiscal incentives and available funding in 2013. Renewable energy investments have been supported by a generous feed-in tariff scheme by the Romanian government. In addition, energy efficiency measures and the establishment of public-private-partnerships such as ESCOs have been launched in Romania, with the EU and EBRD offering further financial and technical support.

In spite of low awareness by both Romanian SMEs and large enterprises of their impact on the environment and the economic opportunities arising from resource efficiency, there are some private sector initiatives in recycling and material re-use that have been strengthened during recent years. Nevertheless, Romania is missing many opportunities as it fails to recycle its own waste, leaving the private sector to import waste for their production activities.

1 | Introduction

As a resource rich country in terms of natural resources, agricultural land and renewable energy sources, developed industrial base and well educated human resources, Romania has a strong **base for sustainable development**.

It is not resource scarcity, but rather the **lack of efficient management of the available resources** that poses problems to sustainable development in Romania. According to the 2013 UNECE Environmental Performance Review of Romania, access to clean **water, waste management and wastewater treatment are the main environmental challenges in Romania**¹. Less than 3% of Romania's municipal solid waste is recycled, as the almost total part of it is disposed in landfills and dumpsites (ibid). While the demand for water has decreased from 20 billion cubic meters (m3) in 1990 to 7.7 billion m3 in 2011, partially due to the installation of water meters, as well as drop in agricultural and industrial activities during the transition period. However, water use is forecasted to double by 2020, as the industrial and agricultural sectors are expected to grow. On average 57% of Romania's population and an extremely low rate of 4% of the rural population have access to wastewater collection. Improving the wastewater collection infrastructure is a key priority for the Romanian government (ibid).

The high potential for renewable energy has started to be exploited more in 2012-13, as several investments have started to be made in the wind, biomass and hydro sectors. In terms of energy efficiency, the housing sector is estimated to have the largest potential for savings and has received policy attention through the set-up of energy efficiency schemes and the availability of funding from EU and EBRD sources.

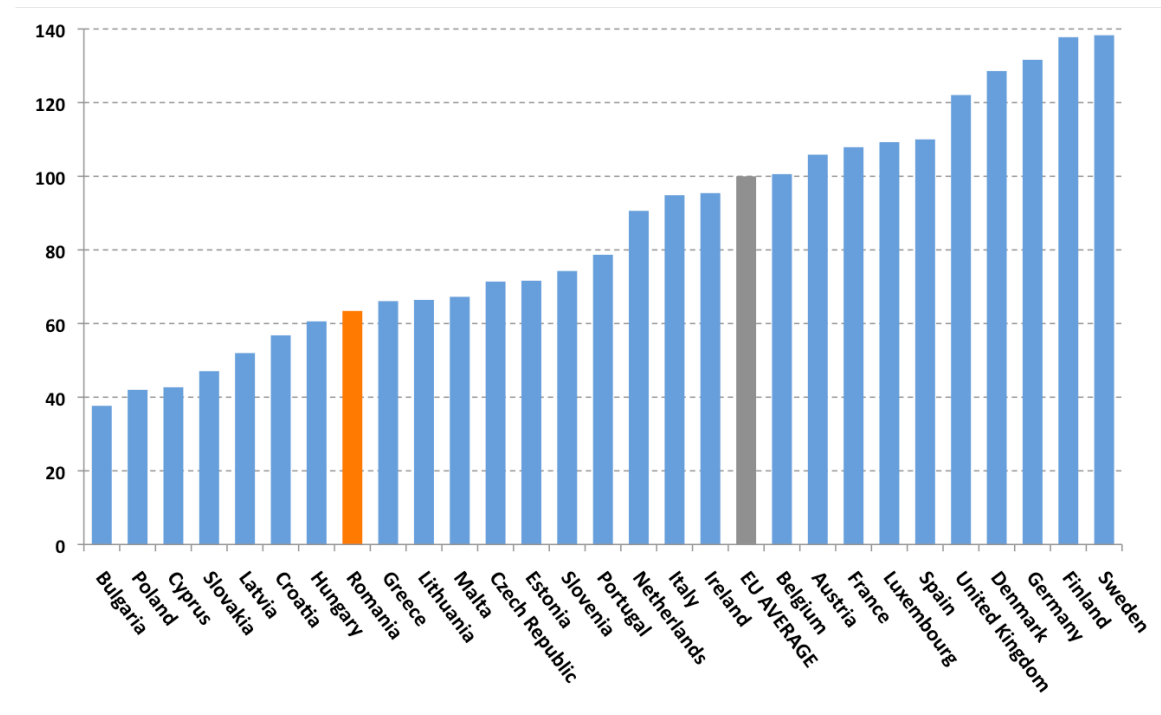
¹ See UNECE, Environmental Performance Review, Romania, 2013, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32871>

2 | Eco-innovation performance

The analysis in this section is based on the EU 28 Eco-innovation scoreboard (Eco-IS) for the year 2013. Eco-IS via its composite Eco-innovation index demonstrates the eco-innovation performance of a country compared with the EU average and with the EU top performers. Eco-IS is based on 16 indicators which are aggregated into five components: eco-innovation inputs, eco-innovation activities and eco-innovation outputs as well as environmental outcomes and socio-economic outcomes

Romania ranks 21st in the Eco-IS, obtaining a score of 63. It is below the overall EU28 average score by 37%, and has advanced one position in the Eco-IS since 2011, from the previous rank 22. The highest ranks are obtained by Sweden and Finland with a score of around 138 each, and by Germany with a score of 132.

Figure 2.1 EU28 Eco-innovation scoreboard 2013, composite index



Source: EIO, 2013

Eco-Innovation inputs

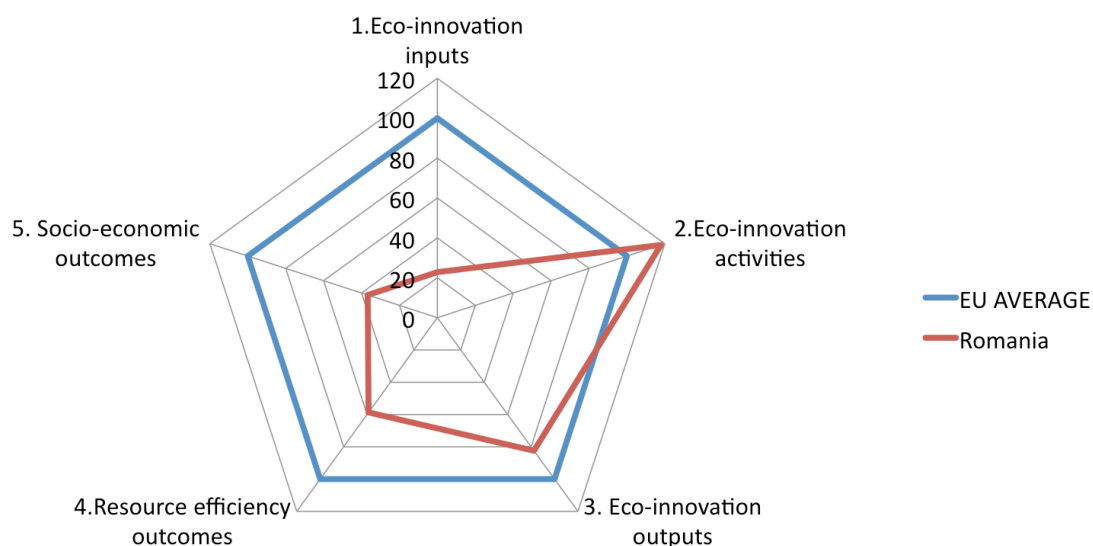
Romania shows very modest inputs into the eco-innovation system, with a score of 23 out of the EU average of 100. Only Cyprus, Croatia and Bulgaria exhibit lower values in this respect.

Government appropriations and outlays into environmental and energy R&D (GBAORD) reach 0.015% of GDP, which is a moderate share compared to EU trends. Finland is an outlier with 0.16% of GDP allocated to energy and environmental R&D.

In terms of employment in eco-innovative research sectors, Romania's amount of R&D personnel reaches 0.4% of total employment, which represents only 34% of the EU28 average. By comparison, both Finland and Luxembourg's researchers in eco-innovation related fields make up 2.14% of each country's total employment.

Total green early stage investment in eco-industries was extremely low or close to zero in Romania 2010-2013. The EU average investments reached 12,3 USD per capita in the same period.

Figure 2.2 Components of the eco-innovation composite index for Romania, 2013



Source: EIO 2013

Eco-Innovation Activities

Romania ranks above the EU average in terms of eco-innovation activities, with an average score of 118. Denmark and Czech Republic are top performers in this field.

Firms having implemented innovation activities aiming at a reduction of material input per unit output account for only 0.10% of all firms, which is a rather similar result to the EU level pattern (though slightly lower, 80% of the EU value). Firms having implemented innovation activities aiming at a reduction of energy input per unit output as a percentage of total number of firms represented 11% of all firms, a result 75% of the EU average. These data are based on the 2008 Community Innovation Survey and therefore there are no updates relative to the 2012 EIO country profile.

Romania's positive score in terms of eco-innovation activities is driven by the country's firms' interest in standardisation of their environmental management. Romanian companies' environmental awareness is slightly higher than EU average, considering that the number of firms acquiring the ISO 14001 certification related to observing environmental management requirements for business reached 413.7 companies per million inhabitants in 2012. This is almost double the average number of firms per million inhabitants in the EU (208.3 firms per million people). Romania ranks first in this respect in the EU, followed by Spain and Sweden.

Eco-Innovation Outputs

Romania shows a moderate but below average performance in the field of eco-innovation outputs. The mean EI output index is 82. This score is however mostly explained by the relatively

high performance in the field of EI media coverage, but poor scores in terms of EI patents and publications.

The number of eco-patents obtained in 2010 amounted to 0.10 eco-patents per million inhabitants. In comparison to the Romanian result, the EU average number of EI patents obtained per million inhabitants amounted to 7.6 in the same year.

The number of EI publications per million inhabitants is also relatively modest, amounting to 4.3, which places the Romania at 48% of the EU average outputs in this field (8.8 publications per million inhabitants).

The factor explaining Romania's average to high EI outputs performance is the high level of eco-innovation media coverage, with 0.14 annual hits in all electronic media covered by Meltwater News with key word "Eco-innovation" in 2013.

Resource Efficiency Outcomes

Romania's performance in achieving resource efficiency outcomes is modest to moderate, as the economy is on average 40% less resource efficient than the EU level. Material productivity and water productivity are much lower than the EU average, while energy productivity and GHG emissions intensity approach the EU average.

Material productivity amounts to 0.7 eur/kg in 2011, which is well below the EU average of 1.74 eur/kg, while water productivity is 3.7 Eur/m³, much lower than the EU average of 12.9 Eur/m³ in 1996-2005. Energy productivity shows better prospects, with a value of 7.5 Eur/toe (93% of the EU average of 8 Eur/toe) in 2011.

The GHG emissions intensity is slightly higher in comparison to EU average, amounting to 0.5 CO₂ emissions generated per unit of GDP. In contrast, the EU has a level of 0.36 CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP in 2011.

Socio-economic Outcomes

Romania's EI performance translates into low socio-economic outcomes, partly mirroring the low values of EI inputs, outputs and resource efficiency outcomes. The total score reached 37% of EU average performance.

Exports of products from eco-industry are 0.23% of total exports, which is 39% of EU average. In comparison, in leader countries such as Luxembourg and Denmark eco-industries exports reached a level of 0.98% of total exports.

Employment in eco-industries is at 0.38% of total employment in Romania in 2012. This result positions Romania at 53% of the EU average level of employment in eco-industries of 0.71% of total employment in 2012.

The eco-industries' revenue is low, at 0.08% of total revenue across sectors, as opposed to the EU-wide average turnover of eco-industries amounting to 0.44% of total turnover in 2012. The highest performer in this case is the Netherlands, with eco-industries' revenue at a level of 0.68% of total companies' revenue in 2012.

3 | Selected eco-innovation areas and new trends

The renewable energy sector has witnessed a notable evolution throughout 2012-2013. The number of companies registered as active in the renewable energy sector grew 18 times in 2009-2013, with 559 companies accredited by the Romanian Energy Regulator to receive green certificates for producing green energy by the end of 2013.² Renewable energy production reached record amounts in 2013. Renewable energy projects surpassed 1400 MW installed capacity in 2013, which added to the 2335 MW of previously existing capacity.³ This has been also driven by generous economic incentives provided by the government to this sector. However, Romania cut its subsidies offered to new investments in the field of wind, solar and small hydro renewable energy projects as of January 2014, which may lead to a drop in activities.⁴

As mentioned in the previous EIO Romania country profiles, growing fields are also the promotion of sustainable construction and energy efficiency. According to Energy Efficiency Watch, there is great savings potential in the buildings sector in Romania⁵. The government offers several incentive schemes for energy efficiency improvements. It also eliminated aid for heating, which was leading to higher energy consumption rates. While 2011 announced the intention of the government to promote public-private partnerships in this field, it has clearly progressed with the help of EBRD and EU funding, which has been made available for setting up ESCOs (Energy-savings companies) since 2013.

4 | Eco-innovation barriers and drivers in Romania

The Green Business Index (GBI) has been benchmarking the environmental performance of Romanian companies since 2010. The trends mentioned in their latest report (2013) highlight the stagnating landscape of the private sector's lack of awareness of their interaction and the benefits of reducing unsustainable waste management practices among private sector actors in Romania. Land filling has continued to be the main method of disposing of waste. Romanian companies surveyed by GBI still do not understand the value of re-using waste and the potential cost-cutting effects this can lead to for companies. The Romanian business sector's awareness of their environmental impact has remained low. It is estimated that Corporate Social Responsibility investments focused on the environment amount to 16% of the total areas of investments (which are more focused on education, health and social issues). On average, companies devote only 1% of their turnover to environmental issues, and most of these expenditures go for compliance with regulations, audits and environmental certifications.⁶

According to the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Romanian SMEs are less likely to adopt measures to improve their resource efficiency in comparison to the EU average. Furthermore, data provided by the Romanian Ministry of Environment indicates that only 17% of Romanian SMEs, compared to 26% of EU SMEs have been capitalising on the rising demand for ecological

² See <http://www.ecomagazin.ro/energiea-regenerabila-a-ajuns-un-business-in-care-activeaza-560-de-producatori-in-2009-erau-numai-31-de-firme/>

³ See <http://www.instalfocus.ro/articole/record-pentru-rom-nia-n-sectorul-energiei-verzi-n-2013>

⁴ See <http://www.euractiv.com/energy/romania-slashes-renewable-energy-news-532416>

⁵ See http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org/fileadmin/eew_documents/Documents/EEW2/Romania.pdf

⁶ See Green Business Index Romania 2013, p. 74, <http://www.gbindex.ro/assets/pdf/2013/GBI2013.pdf>

services. The Ministry acknowledges that there are also few public resources made available to stimulate this transition. There is limited availability of funding towards cradle-to-cradle initiatives, or sustainable production and consumption projects.

As shown above, the **Romanian business sector can be characterised by a shortsighted perspective** on profit making. More steps need to be taken for the private sector actors to adopt a long-term, systemic view on the impact of their business on the local environment. R&D activities need to be streamlined towards responding to environmental and societal challenges.

The regulatory framework still needs to evolve in order to provide incentives for eco-innovative practices, products and services. More use of green public procurement and further demand-side policies may provide a boost to more sustainable business practices. However, steps have slowly been made towards this due to the push to comply with European regulations and also driven by civil society initiatives, as explained in the following chapter.

As indicated by the Ministry of Environment, Romania's priorities include the greening of production and consumption processes, investing in RDI activities and enhancing the cooperation between the public and the private sectors in tackling environmental challenges. In addition, the Ministry acknowledges the need for further investment into green skills and education of the labour force towards sustainable development. In this sense, the National Labour Agency is engaged in the "Green Jobs" project, funded by the European Social Fund, in order to evaluate the Romanian market for green jobs and identify good practices for support measures in this sector.⁷ Job creation and a more sustainable economy are thus further drivers of the government's policy in this field.

5 | Eco-innovation policy landscape

A major step forward was made through the National Law for Waste Management, adopted in early February 2014. The law establishes the mandatory character of selective waste collection for large producers of waste. The latter are obliged to install special technologies to collect paper, metal, plastic and glass separately. Bio waste can be collected separately and transferred to compost stations or other processing stations, provided that valorising the bio waste is done under safety conditions provided by the law. The Structural Funds Operational Programme in the field of environment committed 700m Euro to 11 projects in 2013. The largest part of the committed funds will go to waste management infrastructure projects.⁸

Implementation of the Waste Framework Directive, the Hazardous Waste Directive and the Waste Oils Directive of the European Commission has been driving the changes in the Romanian waste management regulations. Romania has set a target to reach a level of 50% of waste to be recycled or reused by 2020 (note: in 2013 roughly 98% of Romania's waste was being landfilled). As of January 2014, the private sector will have to make higher fiscal contributions to the Romanian Fund for Environment, which is meant to stimulate a more sustainable use of natural resources and increase the reuse of waste throughout the value chains of the companies. There will be a flat tax of 3 RON / 10 kg (roughly 0.75 Euro / 10 kg) on used oils. Packaging waste will have to be accounted for in companies' accounting systems so that they can be further sold for reuse. A new tax was also introduced to penalise the waste disposal through landfilling. The companies will have to pay over 11 Euro / tonne of landfilled waste as of 2014, a sum which will increase to over 25 Euro / tonne of landfilled waste in 2016. The tax will be collected by the Romanian Fund for the Environment.⁹

⁷ See <http://proiect.locuridemuncaverzi.ro/>

⁸ See Ecomagazin, 2014, <http://www.ecomagazin.ro/ministerul-mediului-proiecte-de-700-milioane-de-euro-parafate-in-2013-prin-pos-mediul/>

⁹ See Ecomagazin, 2013, <http://www.ecomagazin.ro/parghii-fiscale-de-protectie-a-mediului-noutati-2014/>

In 2013, Romania also declared an energy efficiency target of 10 Mtoe (19%) reduction in primary energy consumption, enforcing the Energy Efficiency EU Directive (2012/27/EU).¹⁰

The government cut the subsidies offered to new investments in the field of wind, solar and small hydro renewable energy projects as of January 2014. This happened within a backdrop of a spike in renewable energy projects at the end of 2013, as Romania reportedly had one of the most generous renewable energy support schemes in the EU.

Romania adjusted its public procurement legislation in 2006 as a response to the 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC Directives on public procurement contracts for public works, goods and services, and in the field of water, energy, transport and post services respectively. Legally, public procurement can incorporate environmental criteria in Romania. However, this is not a common practice among public bodies. In spite of the existing intention of a Green Public Procurement Action Plan 2009-2013, the document remained at the level of public consultation, and has not become a commitment of the government. At the end of 2012, the Romanian government initiated a Council on Green Public Procurements, made up of governmental members and civil society. However, there has been no remarkable further policy progress in this sense, and the activity of the GPP Council is not very visible in the public realm.

The Ministry of Education and Research published a preliminary version of the National Strategy of Research & Development and Innovation (RDI) for the period 2014-2020, which includes the proposed fields of Smart Specialisation that are prioritised in the support of RDI activities in the upcoming period. The thematic areas relevant to the field of eco-innovation include support to the fields of bio-economy (bio-energy projects, bio-nanotechnologies, industrial biotechnologies, agro-food, health and environmental biotechnologies, bio-analysis), energy and environment (increasing end-user energy efficiency, efficient use of water resources, smart cities – including support for elements of sustainability at city level) and eco-technologies (sustainable transport solutions, de-pollution and waste reuse technologies, new and sustainable materials).¹¹ At the time of writing the strategy is under public consultation (mid-February 2014).

6 | Good practice examples

The Green Laboratory of Recycling

The Green Laboratory of Recycling is 2012 initiative launched by the selective waste collection and recycling organisation Eco-Rom Packaging, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Education. The project aims to inform, provide education and raise the awareness of the younger generation on environmental issues. Expected gains are to plant the seeds of civic engagement and responsibility towards the environment among children and teenagers. Each year, the project consists of a road show promoting recycling practices in schools a series of cities throughout Romania. Key success factors are the partnership with the local municipalities and the engagement of school teachers in the continuous promotion of recycling. The initiative has been awarded the Golden Medal of Excellency in the SMEs category as part of the European CSR Awards.

Key words: recycling, awareness raising, education

Links: Campaign website: <http://www.colecteazaselectiv.ro/laboratorul-verde-al-reciclarii-2/>

Article: <http://www.ecomagazin.ro/eco-rom-ambalaje-argint-la-international-business-awards/>

¹⁰ See European Commission, Energy Efficiency reporting targets, 2013 http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/reporting_en.htm

¹¹ See Ministry of Education and Research, 2014, preliminary draft of National RDI Strategy 2014-2020, <http://www.research.edu.ro/ro/articol/3343/strategia-nationala-de-cercetare-si-inovare-2014-2020>

Photo link: <http://www.ecomagazin.ro/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Laboratorul-Verde-al-Reciclarii-685x320-1.jpg>



Wastewater treatment plant in Cluj now produces green energy

The most modern and third largest wastewater treatment plant in Romania was launched in December 2013 in Cluj-Napoca in the northwest of Romania. The County Council of Cluj-Napoca contracted the construction and technology management company UTI. A plant modernisation project amounted to 35 million EUR and was financed through the European Cohesion Fund, within the Environment Operational Programme.

The wastewater treatment plant is a response to the Region's dire need of better wastewater management and to the need to protect the quality of drinking water. The modernisation works improved and greened the water treatment processes and also allowed for the plant to co-generate 45% of its energy needs on itself by using the mud to produce biogas, contributing to its energy autonomy.

Key words: wastewater treatment plant, energy co-generation

Link: http://www.uticfm.ro/noutati_utifm/stire/111

News article: <http://www.ecomagazin.ro/statia-de-epurare-din-cluj-produce-energie-verde/>

Picture link: http://www.uticfm.ro/images/upload/Statia%20de%20epurare%20Cluj%203_web.jpg



Recicleta

Recicleta is a social business initiative that collects paper waste for recycling. The organisation employs socially disadvantaged persons to drive cargo-tricycles to collect the paper, thus providing a source of income for the poor. By using the tricycles the initiative reduces its environmental footprint and promotes cycling as an alternative means of transport. The impacts of the initiative include collecting 194,000 kg of paper, saving 2910 trees from being cut and creating 6 jobs for disadvantage persons. This is the equivalent to avoiding the emission of 160.16 tonnes of CO₂ and methane in landfills, and of 3.2 tonnes of CO₂ in the air (due to using cycling as a means of transport). The initiative won the European Investment Bank Social Innovation Tournament Special Category Prize on Environment in 2013.

Key words: recycling, paper, social innovation

Link: <http://recicleta.ro/>

Photo link: <http://recicleta.ro/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/RBS.jpg>



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Green Business Index Romania 2013, <http://www.gbindex.ro/assets/pdf/2013/GBI2013.pdf>

UNECE, Environmental Performance Review, Romania, 2013, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32871>

ANNEX 1. Policy measures addressing eco-innovations in Romania

	Group of policy measures	Type of policy measure	Specific measure Please provide reference to or brief summary of specific measures (national, regional) add cells if necessary	Focus of policy measure (tick if relevant)				
				Generic focus on eco-innovation	Resource efficiency improvement	Energy efficiency improvement	Reduction of emissions incl. CO2	Other relevant areas (e.g. renewable energy, etc)
SUPPLY SIDE FOCUS	Equity/business support	Venture capital funds						
		Public guarantee funds						
	Support for R&D in public sector and industry	R&D funding	-Sectoral Operational Programme for the Increase in Economic Competitiveness, 2nd Priority axis: increase of the economic competitiveness through research and development (2007-2013) -Core Programme for R&D addressed to national institutes The 2014-2020 RDI Strategy foresees prioritised funding for the fields of bio-economy, energy and environment and eco-technologies -Innovation programme within the National Plan for RDI (National Plan II) and future R&D funds 2014-2020	x	x	x		x
		Collaborative grants	Collaborative R&D projects within the National Plan for RDI (National Plan II) and future R&D funds 2014-2020	x	x	x		x
		R&D infrastructure	Core R&D funding -INFRATECH programme supports the development of the infrastructure and specialized services for technological transfer and innovation					
	Fiscal measures	Tax incentives for R&D and start-ups	-State aid for stimulating investments in technology parks: exemption from taxes related to land and buildings in the industrial parks (Fiscal code Law 571/2003) -20% deductions of taxable profit and tax reduction through depreciation of expenses for R&D activities, according to the new Fiscal Code in 2007					
		Tax incentives for R&D personnel						
	Education, training and mobility	Tailored training courses for companies, entrepreneurs						
		Advise/consulting for start ups, companies, entrepreneurs	-ReNITT (Romanian Network on Innovation and Technology Transfer) -The National and Local Chambers of Commerce and Industry -Regional Development Agencies (8)	X X X				

		Placement schemes for students						
		Support for R&D workers recruitments						
	Networks and partnerships	Competence centres, clusters, science-technology parks	-ReNITT technology transfer centres – 11 in total, out of which one in the topic of renewable energies -incubators located in capital region, in Central and North-west Development Regions; three address the topics of energy efficiency, energy performance of buildings, water treatment and eco-innovation -technology transfer centres (19)	X	X	X	X	X
		Technology platforms and innovation networks	-ReNITT is the specialized network of institutions for technology transfer and innovation, supported by INFRATECH Programme -Romanian Association of Science-Technology and Industrial Parks and Business Incubators		X	X	X	X
		Foresight and common vision building						
		Market intelligence and other forms of information sharing						
DEMAND SIDE FOCUS	Regulations and standards	Regulations, targets, cap & trade schemes	The National Action Plan for Energy from Renewable Sources (2010) sets the national and sectoral goals for energy efficiency and measures to increase the availability of biomass		X	X	X	X
		Performance standards, labeling, certification	Ministry of Environment and Forests is promoting the eco-label and voluntary participation to EMAS through campaigns, training and informative materials (“Use eco-products with eco-labels” and “Eco-label – the guide of the products”) National Authority for Energy Regulation under the CEECAP project - Implementing EU Appliance Policy in CEE, promotes actions based on energy labelling to provide information for advising and motivating consumers’ orientation towards energy efficient appliances					
	Public procurement	“Green“ public procurement of goods and services	Government Emergency Ordinance on Public Procurement (OUG nr. 34/2006) sets the legal framework that offers the possibility for public bodies to engage in GPP	x	x	x	x	x
		R&D procurement						
		Pre-commercial procurement						
Technology Transfer	Advisory support for technology adopters							

		Financial or fiscal support for technology adopters (e.g. grants for purchasing new technology)	Support funding programmes of the Environmental Fund Administration (Green House programme for households and public institutions, incentives for purchasing electric cars, use of renewable energy sources)			x		
Support of private demand		Tax incentives for consumers (e.g. for purchasing environmentally efficient products)						
		Tax reductions for products and services (e.g. VAT reductions)						
		Demand subsidies (e.g. eco-vouchers, consumer subsidies)						
		Awareness raising and information provision	Information is provided by ministries, national, regional and local agencies, associations etc. ECOEMERGE website, the main tool for information in the area of eco-innovation and sustainable production and consumption http://achizitiiecologice.dualmind.ro/ecoemerge.php	x	x	x	x	x

About the Eco-Innovation Observatory (EIO)

The Eco-Innovation Observatory (EIO) is an initiative financed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment. Since 2009 the Observatory has been developing an integrated information hub on eco-innovation addressed to business, policy makers, innovation service providers and researchers. The EIO supports the implementation of the European Eco-Innovation Action Plan of the European Commission.

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