

The Romanian Court of Accounts

During the period of 2017-2019, the Romanian Court of Accounts carried out audit missions in areas that are included in the objectives of sustainable development, respectively:

- ❖ Performance of social assistance benefits for preventing and combating poverty, child and family support
- ❖ Performance audit on water quality and management (SDG 6)
- ❖ Performance audit on the natural gas market
- ❖ Performance audit on monitoring air quality and efficient management of greenhouse gas emission certificates, allocated to Romania by the Kyoto Protocol (parallel audit)
- ❖ Performance audit on the use of public funds allocated during the period of 2002-2016 for the construction of sports halls, both in urban and rural areas, in order to guarantee access to modern sports facilities
- ❖ Performance audit on the use of funds allocated from the state budget for the acquisition and implementation/operationalization of studies, projects and software, purchased at MSI, for its own activities and those of other institutions, but also for monitoring their implementation at the level of other beneficiary institutions and from the perspective of achieving interoperability.

Summary of the audit report on SDG 6

Performance audit on water quality and management in the period 2015-2017

In Romania, waters are part of the state's public domain, and the protection, enhancement and sustainable use of water resources are actions of general interest. The general objective of the audit carried out at the Ministry of Waters and Forests was to evaluate the performance on water quality and management during the period of 2015-2017, and the specific objectives were to analyze the institutional capacity on how to manage water and implement water quality programs.

Following the performance audit mission, the Court of Accounts found:

- the tendency of diminishing the financial resources allocated to the development of the activity of monitoring the water quality in Romania, but also of those related to the laboratory materials and reagents necessary for this purpose;
- obsolete technical equipment does not allow the monitoring of all priority hazardous substances, and the existing human resources at the level of laboratories register a significant deficit, having as consequences the lack of monitoring of some indicators, overloading and delay in reporting the results; ;

- lack of performance indicators for assessing the efficiency of public spending on water quality;
- The State Water Inspection, which carried out the inspection and control activities in the field of water management, did not function effectively;
- the lack of relevance of data on the quantities of pollutants discharged and the fact that the revenues collected by the National Administration "Romanian Waters" (ANAR) from specific contributions to water management are not used directly to finance wastewater treatment show vulnerabilities in water management;
- regarding the connection of the inhabitants to the sewerage networks and to the treatment plants, in 2017, Romania failed to comply with the targets provided in the National Implementation Plan. Therefore, on June 7, 2018, the European Commission sent the Implementation Letter delay - case 2018/2109, concerning the incorrect application of Council Directive 91/271/EEC on the treatment of urban wastewater.

The Court of Accounts has made the following recommendations:

- ensuring the proper functioning of the “Water Inspection” department, of the human and technological resources necessary for the operation of the water quality laboratories within ANAR and involvement, together with other responsible central public authorities, in completing the legal framework regulating the financing and implementation of collection and treatment systems;
- prioritization, at the level of central and local public institutions with attributions and responsibilities in the implementation of the provisions of Directive no. 91/271/EEC on urban wastewater treatment, overcrowding and necessary works, respectively planning of financing sources and necessary works, deadlines, based on a common agreement/institutional plan;
- analyzing and identifying ways to stimulate the population to connect to sewerage networks and treatment plants in order to increase the level of connection and ensure the parameters for the operation of wastewater infrastructure;
- identifying possibilities to ensure the financing of the eligible projects, completing the requirements for the ineligible ones, as well as the realization of documentations and technical projects for the rest of the situations;
- setting up a commission of specialists to reevaluate results and how to capitalize on them in the case of water quality studies;
- monitoring, at the level of the administrative-territorial units, the obligations assumed through the collaboration agreements regarding the maintenance and operation of the investments for the integrated pollution control.