



4th World Conference on Business, Economics and Management, WCBEM

Waste management in the context of sustainable development: Case study in Romania

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Abstract

Sustainable development has become a central element in the work of national and international companies. From this perspective the focus is more and more on protecting the environment and society. So, waste management is a sensitive area for organizations. The present paper presents the situation of municipal solid waste management (MSW) in Romania, relative to EU requirements. Optimization of waste collection through source separation is mandatory, while the management based on waste land filling must be overcome. In this paper, some aspects are analyzed, related to the technologies used and the amounts collected in relation to the EU.

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Peer-review under responsibility of Academic World Research and Education Center

Keywords: Sustainability, technology, selective collection, MSW, recycling, reduction.

1. Introduction

In the context of sustainable development, waste management is an activity that shapes the environmental protection. Sustainability has become the model of development adopted at international level, whereby both organizations and people act in accordance with the principles and its amendments. Since 1951 when the International Union for the Nature Conservation published the first report of a state on the global environment that is seeking reconciliation between economy and ecology and until present, the concept of sustainable development was shaped by the various interpretations. Currently, according to a study (Ivascu et al., 2014) most organizations associate sustainable development with environmental protection and with actions related to society. Environmental

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concerns are still intense. Organizations and municipalities develop intensive activities in this direction. At the beginning, emphasis was placed on selective waste collection (Brunner et al., 2015), currently there is intense concern for waste management and recycling. Human activities and those of organizations inevitably produce waste (Moraru et al., 2010). As analyzed territory is bigger the challenge of waste management is more complex (Lavee, 2007). Together with measures to reduce waste, waste management contributes significantly to the achievement of sustainable development.

This activity of waste management is complex and differently solved in European Union (EU). This paper analyzes the situation of Romania in correlation with international provisions. Research is structured in three directions: (1) the implications of Romania in sustainable development, (2) waste management, (3) evaluation of technologies used for waste management in Romania. The paper ends with conclusions and future research directions.

2. Waste management in Romania

2.1. Sustainable Development in Romania

Sustainable development is dealt with extensively in Romania. In a survey conducted in Romania, it was observed that most organizations (78.4%) associated sustainable development with activities for environmental protection, and 85.7% of these organizations are involved in social activities. Within this research there were involved 95 companies from Romania from the categories: micro (11), small (15), medium enterprises (34), large enterprises (27), and very large enterprises (8). The classification of the enterprise's size class was conducted in accordance with Law No. 346/2004, regarding the stimulation, the creation and growth of SMEs, as supplemented and amended, which establishes criteria for classifying enterprises (Official Gazette). Companies that exceed a category, in terms of number of employees, turnover or total assets are classified in the upper category when there is observed at least one of these limits.

The present research integrates elements of sustainability, risk assessment and international standards. The authors approach sustainable development in the four responsibilities of sustainability through their integration in the economic environment, with direct impact on the company. The study results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Centralization of the data

Type	The implication of question	Affirmation answer
Risk	The existence of risk manager	63.3 %
	Risk monitoring	96.7 %
	Implementation of a tool	32.7 %
Standardization	Implementation of ISO 9000	96.3 %
	Implementation of ISO 14000	77.8 %
	Implementation of OSHAS18000	28.5 %
	Implementation of ISO 26000	7.4 %
	Implementation of ISO 27000	22.2 %
	Implementation of ISO 31000	42.6 %
Sustainability	The importance sustainable development	60.7 %
	Actions to protect the environment	78.4 %
	Social action	85.7 %
	Responsible programming of waste management	31 %
	Selective waste collection	65%
	Selective Technologies	7%

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