

WORLD WATER DAY 2022: "GROUNDWATER - MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE"



GROUNDWATER - FROM SOURCE TO CONSUMER: CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

22 March 2022

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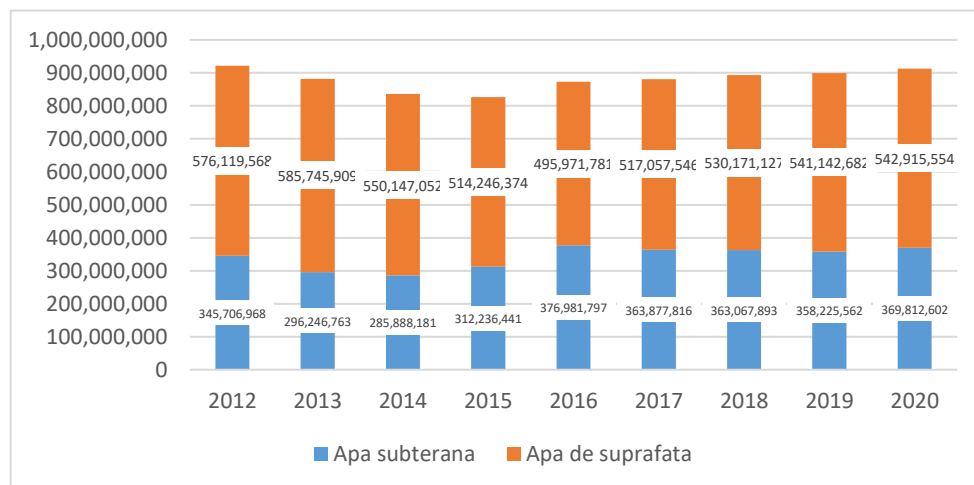
I. Context and objectives

Objective Strengthen the sustainability of drinking water supply services in Romania, by providing adequate knowledge, exposure and expertise to support sustainable modernization efforts in the drinking water supply sector.

Context Adapting the messages of the United Nations to the national context (<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>):

- Groundwater is invisible, but its impact is visible everywhere in the lives of those who benefit from drinking water supply services.
- Beyond what is visible beneath our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives.
- As climate change intensifies, the groundwater situation will become increasingly critical.
- Groundwater cannot be seen, but it must not be out of mind.

For the Regional Water Supply Operators in Romania, the total volume of water used decreased from 2012 to 2015 and registered a slight recovery in the period 2015-2020. In the last 5 years, there has been a tendency to stabilize the share of groundwater used in the total volume of water extracted, around 40%.



Source: <http://www.h2obenchmark.org/#!>, in cubic meters

According to the data of the National Institute of Statistics, at the end of 2020, the population connected to the public drinking water supply systems was 13,936,918 persons, representing 72.4% of the resident population of Romania (https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/com_presa/com_pdf/sistem_canal_2020r.pdf)

The purpose of this Conference is to promote an exchange of knowledge on

groundwater, relevant to the community involved in its management and the implications for actions from source to consumer, achieved in compliance with and respecting the provisions of applicable legislation, in particular those on drinking water, for the benefit of consumers.

Subject Based on a review of previous / existing management activities, there is a knowledge gap and a need for a better understanding of the importance of sustainable groundwater protection and use.

The activity will include the preparation and delivery of a dedicated conference, for the presentation of recent papers / studies / projects that are relevant for groundwater, in the form of a knowledge dissemination event.

Format Due to the impact of Covid-19 on travel and the inability to hold physical meetings, it was decided that this Conference should be held in an online (virtual) format as a half day event.

A short summary will be prepared by the organizers and published together with the presentations after the conference on the websites <https://www.ara.ro/> and <https://aquademica.ro>.

Participants The event is addressed primarily to technical management professionals and high-ranking technical staff members of the Romanian Water Association.
Participants will register based on the invitation received from the organizers or by filling out the form <https://forms.gle/mUHqXqJxBWK3niVVA>, until March 21, 2022.

II. General Presentation

22 March 2022	
09:30 (Ro time)	Welcome and introductory remarks
09:45	Session 1: Romanian experience in groundwater management from source to consumer Cases and experience papers from Romania will be presented, including related to policies and regulations, challenges, problems, solutions, perspectives, etc.
11:45	Session 2: International experiences in groundwater management

	Representatives of companies, utilities or consultants will present their experience in achieving sustainable financing of drinking water supply services from underground sources, while focusing on selecting the right technology, business and investment planning, business models, etc.
14:05	Session 3: Closing remarks
14:25	End of Conference

III. Organizers

Romanian Water Association

Created in 1995, the Romanian Water Association (A.R.A.) is a professional organization that brings together:

- the 43 regional operators of water supply and sewerage services in Romania, the 2 large municipal operators in Bucharest and Ploiești and three local operators of medium / small size, its members having a share of over 90% of the supply services market with water and sewerage in Romania;
- over 90 legal entities, mainly producers and importers of materials and equipment, and, respectively, contractors in the water sector;
- over 125 individuals, with specific jobs in the water supply and sewerage sector, of which over 30 belong to or are related to the university / academic / research environment.

At the national level, the operators of water supply and sewerage services in Romania provided, at the end of 2020, services as follows:

- drinking water supply for 13,936,918 inhabitants;
- collection, transport and treatment of wastewater for 10,794,270 inhabitants

and operated drinking water supply systems and, respectively, wastewater collection, transport and treatment in 1,299 administrative-territorial units.

A.R.A. member operators carried out:

- projects under the Sectoral Operational Program Environment (SOP Environment) worth approx. 4.1 billion euros;
- projects under the Large Infrastructure Operational Program (POIM) worth more than 9.4 billion euros are underway.

Aquademica Foundation

The Aquademica Foundation was created with the desire to build a national center for professional development in the field of environmental protection. The official "birth" of the

foundation bears the date of August 3, 2009, the date of registration in the National Register of Associations and Foundations.

It is a dynamic foundation, involved in numerous professional training programs, in the promotion of applied research projects, know-how transfer, consultancy, specialized studies and partnerships. The transfer of knowledge proposed by Aquademica is designed according to the principle "from practitioners to practitioners".

Topics covered so far in the programs have covered topics such as sewer rehabilitation, wastewater treatment, drinking water supply systems, GIS applications for water and sewerage networks, circular economy, digitization, etc.

The latest scientific events, the brand of the Aquademica Foundation, are the international AquaCircular conferences, held in recent years in online format, with important participations and tailored papers / presentations, in line with European and global recommendations.

IV. Detailed Agenda

1. Conference Opening	
09:30-09:45 <i>(RO Time)</i>	<p>Welcome and introductory remarks</p> <p>PhD Eng. Ilie VLAICU, Aquatim General Director and President of the Romanian Water Association</p> <p>PhD Ec. László BORBÉLY – Coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development, Romanian Government (to be confirmed)</p> <p>PhD Eng. Robert-Eugen SZÉP – State Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests</p>
<p>2. Romanian experience in groundwater management from source to consumer</p> <p>Moderator PhD Chem. Epsică CHIRU - Executive Manager of the Romanian Water Association</p>	
9:45-10:10	<p>PhD Eng. Robert-Eugen SZÉP – State Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests</p> <p>"Groundwater is a vital resource for people and the environment"</p>
10:10-10:30	<p>Prof. PhD Eng. Ion BICA – President of the Technical-Scientific Council of the Romanian Water Association</p> <p>Groundwater - "Current Challenges"</p>
10:30-10:50	<p>PhD Eng. Aurel PRESURĂ – General Director RAJA S.A.</p> <p>Angela PANĂ - Director Quality and Environment, RAJA S.A.</p>

	"The experience of RAJA S.A. in the exploitation of underground aquifers in Constanța County"
10:50-11:10	Adriana ZAMAN – Treatment technology specialist, Buzau Water Company "Rational and efficient use of groundwater resources. Resilience to climate change"
11:10-11:30	Ovidiu Gheorghe PANI – Municipal Applications Sales Manager, Western Region GRUNDFOS Pumps Romania: "Submersible pumps for underground performance"
11:30-11:45	Q&A Session
3. International experiences in groundwater management	
Moderators Monica ISACU / Cristina BORCA - Aquademica Foundation	
<i>Note: The program in this section is subject to change</i>	
11:45-12:05	Randall J. COOPER, President , Envirolomics Engineering Inc., Canada "Watermain Renewal with CELP (Clean, Evaluate, Line, Protect)"
12:05-12:25	Matias AMOR , Managing Director EMEA, Fibracast Ltd, Canada "Fibraplate, the latest development in MBR Membranes"
12:25-12:45	Amitesh MALHOTRA - Applications Engineer, PhD, EIT, RealTech Inc. Canada "Reagentless Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring"
12:45-13:05	Sherry NGUYEN , Business Development Lead, A.U.G. Signals Ltd., Canada "Build a cloud-based digital platform to safeguard groundwater resources and drinking water supplies"
13:05-13:25	Frank SMITS – Researcher Waternet and Ph.D. Student TUDelft (to be confirmed) "Dune filtration and aquifer management for drinking water supply in the Amsterdam region"
13:25-13:45	Peter KÖSTNER – Head of the Munich Wastewater Department "Groundwater infiltration into sewers"
13:45-14:05	Zsófia KASSAI – Head of Budapest North Wastewater Treatment Plant "Management of rainwater that reaches the sewer"
14:05-14:15	Q&A Session

4. Closing remarks	
14:15	Key messages from the moderators
	Closing remarks from PhD Eng. Ilie VLAICU , Aquatim General Director and President of the Romanian Water Association

V. Supporters

The organization of the Conference was made possible with the institutional support of:



MINISTERUL MEDIULUI,
APELOR ȘI PĂDURILOR

Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests

Canada

Embassy of Canada in Romania,
Bulgaria and Republic of Moldova



Embassy of Netherlands to Bucharest

VI. Organizational details

Registration

Please register to attend the Conference, **based on the invitation received from the organizers or by filling out the form <https://forms.gle/mUHqXqJxBWK3niVVA>, UNTIL MARCH 21, 2022.** As soon as you register, you will receive a link via email to join the event.

ZOOM

The conference will be available through the Zoom webinar platform. We recommend that you download the Zoom app (for PC / mobile) using <https://zoom.us/support/download>.

The organizers will provide simultaneous translation from English into Romanian and vice versa for **Session 2 - "International experiences in groundwater management"**.

The organizers reserve the right to refuse to connect or disconnect participants in order to avoid unwanted events!

Protection of personal data

- The event will be fully recorded. By participating in the event, you agree to the organizers' disclaimer of personal data / information.

The organizers reserve the right to use:

- contact details provided by participants to facilitate further communication with and between them;
- presentations and registration of the event for publication on the websites (<https://www.ara.ro/> and <https://aquademica.ro>) and own social communication channels.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the logistics of your participation in the event, please contact the organizers by e-mail:

Romanian Water Association, secretariat@ara.ro

or

Aquademica Foundation, aquademica@aquademica.ro