

Bucharest, November 10, 2015

Romania, 2015: a person owns an average 72kg of Electric and Electronic Equipment (EEE). Of this quantity, 7.35kg/person are disposed of as Waste of Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). A maximum of 30% of the generated WEEE is collected within the official collection systems and is reported as national result, 21% are given to relatives and friends, and the rest are the so-called bad habit disposals: WEEE are taken to the waste bins, handed over to street collectors of scrap or randomly discarded. This is the real scenery of WEEE generation, collection and recycling in Romania.

For the first time in Romania, ECOTIC, alongside the United Nations University – the Institute for the Advanced Studies of Sustainability, launched the results of the study “Quantifying Waste of Electric and Electronic Equipment in Romania” on Tuesday, November 10th, at the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests. The objective of the study was to uncover the reality of the WEEE generation, collection and recycling system in Romania, within ECOTIC’s “Steps for WEEE” project financed by Norway Grants. The study used a methodology developed by UNU, used for other European studies; the market research and interrogation was developed by GFK, using face-to-face interviews on 1688 respondents. The European Union continues to increase pressure on Member States to implement policies meant to reduce the impact of pollution and waste on the environment. It is a reasonable tendency, but at the same time Member States must be aware of the real situation in the field, so as to make sure that the measures they undertake are really significant and efficient.

In the case of Romania, and more specifically in the case of WEEE collection and recycling, the reported collection and treatment performances are relatively low and place our country among the last of the Member States. Moreover, up until now, there was no real awareness on what type of WEEE is being generated in Romania and where this waste ends up.

Or it is vital for all players in this field – from the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, to the importers, producers, local administrations, authorized operators – to understand the real and broad context, to see where the dysfunctionalities lie and, eventually, how much and how we can assume, as a European Member State, to collect and recycle by 2021.

The study conveys for the first time in Romania essential data on the real quantities of WEEE generated in Romania by each inhabitant, as well as on the people’s discard habits. For example, in 2015, household generated WEEE in Romania are an estimated 7.35kg/person, while the WEEE quantity that was correctly collected and treated was of just 1,2-1,5 kg/person.

There are two important reasons for WEEE to reach authorized collection systems. First, WEEE that reaches improper collection systems (approx. 70000 tons) has a toxic effect on the environment and population health, because of the polluting agents within WEEE that are not recovered and neutralized. Second, all pieces of equipment that do not enter the authorized flow are lost opportunities for the recycling industry. That is why consumer awareness is an essential element for changing bad habits and their effects.





For more details and relevant data, the study by ECOTIC and UNU is available online at <http://www.ecotic.ro/en/news/premiere-the-results-of-the-study-quantifying-waste-of-electric-and-electronic-equipment-in-romania/>

About ECOTIC:

ECOTIC is a non-profit collective organization that manages WEEE for over 490 affiliated producers and importers. ECOTIC ensures and supervises the entire process of taking over, transport, dismantling and recycling so as to make sure WEEE is no longer a danger to the environment. Over 70.000 tons of WEEE have been managed by ECOTIC's system in its 9 years of activity. The prompt and specialized consultancy offered to producers of electric equipment, batteries and accumulators defines ECOTIC. You can find more on www.ecotic.ro, on our Facebook page, as well as on LinkedIn.

