



REORGANIZATION OF WATER AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT IN ROMANIA: FROM LOCAL TO REGIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE

Joanne Vinke-de Kruijf^{1*}, Valentina Dinica², Denie C.M. Augustijn¹

¹*University of Twente, Faculty of Engineering Technology, Water Engineering and Management Department,
P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands*

²*University of Twente, School of Management and Governance, Centre for Clean Technology and Environmental Policy,
P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands*

Abstract

Romania's drinking water and wastewater sector is currently going through a process of regionalization. This process involves a replacement of a local-focused governance structure by a regional-focused governance structure. The objective of this paper is to explore and explain this regionalization from a governance perspective. In two case studies, the situation before and after the regionalization are investigated. Analyses of the case studies show that the local-focused governance structure was highly incoherent. This resulted in a lack of financial resources needed to maintain and develop the water infrastructure. Romania's accession to the European Union affected several governance elements and evoked the regionalization. Real improvements are not visible yet as the time needed for actual services improvements is considerable and governance elements are still adjusting to each other. This means that there is still a need for ongoing support to arrive at a coherent governance structure.

Key words: case study, drinking water, governance, regionalization, wastewater

* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: joanne.vinke@utwente.nl