

# ***THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FINANCIAL RESULTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT WATER AND SEWAGE OPERATORS IN ROMANIA***

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## ***Abstract:***

*The present research focuses on the analysis of the link between the net profit of water and sewage operators in Romania and independent variables related to sustainable development. The data used in the research is obtained from water and sewage operators for the period 2014-2020. The study is based on a statistical analysis and is an extension of the lead author's previous doctoral research. The independent variables considered include the degree of water connection of the population, the degree of connection to sewerage-treatment services, water-related complaints per network kilometer, blockages in the sewerage network per network kilometer, the degree of water metering, losses of unmetered water per day per kilometer of network (NRW), the level of water and sewage employees per 1000 people served, the debt collection period and the number of inhabitants served per kilometer of network (density). The results of the statistical analysis are significant and confirm the existence of some correlations between these variables and the net profit of water and sewage operators in Romania. The results of this research contribute to the understanding of the relationship between sustainable development and the financial performance of water and sewage operators in Romania. The study highlights the importance of variables such as complaints and blockages per kilometer of network, unmetered water losses and the level of employees in influencing the net profit of these operators. The results suggest that improving these variables can have a positive impact on the financial performance of water and sanitation operators, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals.*

***Keywords:*** water utility performance, financial performance, water and sewage

***JEL codes::*** L95, Q25, M11