

## ROMANIA

## Statistical Yearbook on Romanian Public Transport

## Background/context

As a relatively new member state of the EU, Romania makes significant investments into meeting European standards in several areas. Public transport issues are coming increasingly to the fore in today's society. The Romanian Association of Public Transport (URTP) is a major driving force in this field, representing most of Romania's public transport operators. As part of its efforts to establish high standards for all its members and to help them with the operation of their services, URTP publishes a statistical yearbook which provides a foundation for decision making for both large and small operators. Providing such a compendium of information is quite difficult, but also yields considerable benefits.

The size and structure of operators and public transport organisations is extremely varied. Thus different organisational requirements are possible. Medium and small-sized operators cover mainly local or lightly populated areas with a smaller number of passengers and within a simpler network. Due to limited resources regarding technical and professional requirements, issues which smaller operators are dealing with are not comparable to larger operators.

## Case description

## PROFILE OF URTP

URTP is the main representative of Romanian public transport with 52 members, 36 of whom are operators. It is a member of several public transport organisations and regularly takes part in projects and expert conferences across Europe. It acts as the mouthpiece of Romanian public transport and provides a strong basis of expertise for its members. Due to the manifold structure of the operators organised in URTP, the approach is to flexibly coordinate them whilst simultaneously following overall goals.

URTP acknowledges the importance of well-based data and the need for a realistic image of public transport that includes all operators. It expends considerable effort collecting public transport-related data on a continuous basis, and compiling a valuable knowledge base which reflects the specific needs of small as well as large operators. By relying on such wide and detailed information, URTP has a vital role to play in assisting them with adjusting and enhancing their long-term strategies and their current operations.

## STATISTICAL YEARBOOK

The elevated and collected data is summarised in a statistical yearbook (the latest one is from 2007), which is available for free for active members of URTP providing information.

Other public transport stakeholders can purchase the yearbook directly from URTP. The goal of providing such a database is to harmonise the operators' actions and to meet high quality standards. It represents a crucial source for

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Anuarul statistic al operatorilor de transport public din România, editat de Uniunea Română de Transport Public

URTP

URTP heads, as well as for all its members, against which to draw conclusions and measure outcomes. It also helps the commercial companies dealing with public transport, as well as consultancies.

The statistical yearbook begins with an overview of all public transport operators who are members of URTP. The main part has tables of data on various aspects of public transport, allowing for comparisons of different operators in relation to some 320 parameters. There are data on different kinds of vehicles: tram, trolleybus, bus, minibus and a combination of all public transport modes.

The following facts are collected for each operator:

- General information about the county and city where the public transport operator is based
- General information about the public transport operator
  - Address and contact information

- Short history
- Passenger numbers
- Data about urban, suburban, periurban and interurban routes (length, number) and stops
- Facts about the fleet
  - Stock (new, 2nd hand)
  - Age, types
  - Annual figures about, for example, operating hours
- General and specific consumption of vehicles
  - Amount and costs of petrol consumed
- Development and objectives of investments, forecast of investments for the next three years
- General information about competitors
- Connection of network to other networks (metro, train, airport, maritime [sea], other public transport network)
- Existence of an urban transport plan (sustainable, international)
  - Integration in urban development plan
- Ticket system (electronic)
- Improvement of efficiency
- Improvement of service offers
- Statistics
  - Length of network
  - Fleet
  - Turn-over
  - Transported passengers annually
- Coloured maps of each network

### Costs and financing

The statistical yearbook has to be financed fully by the sales of the product.

### Results

The yearbook makes key figures available to all operators and stakeholders. It enables well-founded decision making, as it provides a comprehensive and realistic image of public transport that is updated continuously. By publishing statistics annually, trends and comparisons help those seeking to find answers to questions, particularly those arising for smaller public transport suppliers.

The yearbook enables URTP to adjust long-term strategies and provides valuable knowledge within URTP's cooperation with governmental institutions and local authorities. It provides an invaluable reference that helps URTP represent its members while also informing decisions about investments in infrastructure, statutory provisions for the regulation of public transport, and road safety.

### Problems

Due to the small size of many operators and the resulting limitations in personnel and financing, data is not available for all operators and for all areas which the statistical yearbook covers. URTP puts much effort in establishing standards regarding the collection of the data and in reducing such gaps in the information.

### Transferability and success factors

As smaller operators especially underestimate the advantages of such complementary measures, a statistical yearbook enhances the operator's interest in economic and social aspects. This is a valuable foundation for an integrative course of action which aims to realise a high quality public transport system and to meet European standards.

### Lessons learnt

Providing something like a statistical yearbook is, while quite time consuming and demanding significant effort, a big help for small and medium-sized public transport operators and interested stakeholders.

### Conclusions

The yearbook provides a comprehensive, regularly updated database. Thus the operator's individual situation is reflected realistically and concisely in the database. The particularities of smaller operators are not merely extrapolated from the data of large companies, but taken from small firms themselves.

It therefore is possible to identify special needs of small operators. Other public transport organisations should put more effort into collecting data on small public transport operators.

### References and contacts

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